

Bancroft and District

Old Home Week

August 6, 7, 8, 9

1961

Bancroft - Then



HISTORICAL SOUVENIR
HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
240 CHURCH ST. - BELLEVILLE, ONT.

Bancroft's Oldest Citizen



Alfred Barker

Born June 22, 1870

Greetings from your General Chairman

On August 6th to 9th this year, we will celebrate Old Home Week in the Village of Bancroft, the centre of a thriving, prosperous, and beautiful countryside. This is the first time in the history of this district that a celebration of this kind has taken place and I can assure you that a great deal of thought and work has gone into this undertaking in our endeavor to make this event a great success.

It is my duty and privilege at this time to thank all committee members and friends for their very generous help and assistance put forward by them to make this event one long to be remembered by those who visit us on this memorable occasion.

In the course of Old Home Week we will be very happy to welcome many old friends and acquaintances of former days, and to make many new ones, and while there has been many changes and improvements over the years, we hope that the old friendships and the ever cherished community spirit is still with us, to bind us together in mutual friendship and understanding, to make the occasion not only a pleasure, but also a lasting benefit to all.

You will visit us in the midst of the harvest season when the country is at its best, at a time when we can give grateful thanks for the fruits of the earth and to Him that sendest them.

Special programs of entertainment will be provided for every member of the family. Each day and evening will be filled with wholesome events for your pleasure.

May I extend to one and all a most hearty welcome to visit Bancroft and District Old Home Week, and as you return to your home in God's care, may you take with you happy memories of this visit to a community which gives rest to the body, peace to the mind, and calm to the soul, and pleasure not soon to be forgotten.

John L. Churcher
General Chairman,
Old Home Week Committee

*A Message of Greeting
from the
Old Home Week Committee*

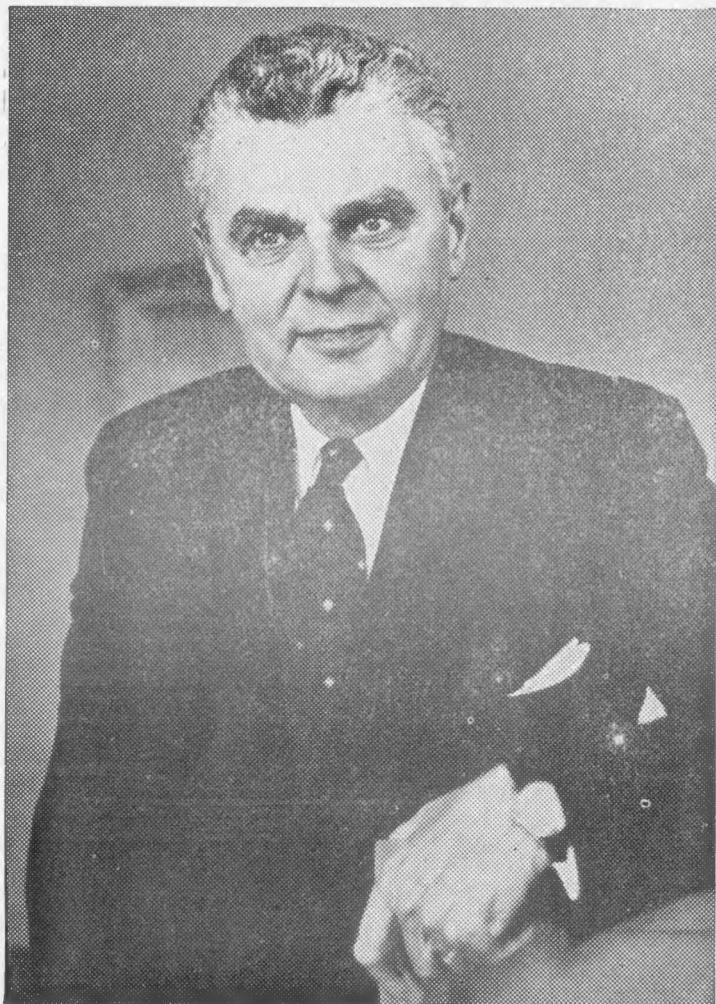
This book is dedicated to all of those who at one time have made the Community of Bancroft their home. It is presented in an effort to bring back to us some of the names and deeds of those who have been here before us.

May it recall some inkling of the hardships, the loneliness, the work and the successes of our first citizens, and may we, by reading of them, become better citizens, more proud of Bancroft and more resolved to follow the high examples set by our forefathers and thus make our town even better than it is.

We hope, then, that this book will provide more than fun and entertainment. Let us try to understand our Present World by looking into our Past, and by doing so prepare for a better Future. By realizing that our present comforts came from the hardships of the past, we should be humbly appreciative of the legacies of our first citizens.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of those who made this book possible. We hope that readers will forgive any errors. In our interviews with the older citizens, memory is sometimes clouded with sentiment. Our thanks to those who donated pictures, articles and good advice.

The Book Committee



I am delighted to have this opportunity to send greetings to the citizens of Bancroft on the celebration of Old Home Week.

I commend them on their wisdom and enterprise in preparing the story of Bancroft's past, for a vivid awareness of local history is essential to an appreciation of our heritage.

To one and all I extend sincere good wishes on this historic event.

John Diefenbaker
Prime Minister

Ottawa,
1961



Leslie M. Frost

Prime Minister of Ontario

It is a great pleasure indeed for me to extent to the people of Bancroft and District my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the Old Home Week Festival.

Bancroft and District and the Province of Ontario as a whole, has progressed and prospered over the years through the energy and forthsight of a great people. It is my sincere wish and desire that this progress and prosperity will continue down through the years.

My sincere best wishes to all who participate in this very important event.

I would like to compliment the people of Bancroft for organizing and arranging for an "Old Home Week" Celebration to be held in 1961.

Over the past number of years, this Village, which is situated in very scenic surroundings, has steadily grown until now it is one of the most modern municipalities in the Province of Ontario.

Great credit is due many people from the pioneers to the present citizens for making this Village of Bancroft what it is today.



W. E. Sandercock



"Sincere good wishes to the people of Bancroft and all those visiting the area on this momentous occasion."

*Rod Webb, M.P.
Hastings - Frontenac*

COMPLIMENTS OF

Clarke T. Rollins, M.L.A.

(East - Hastings)



WE CONGRATULATE BANCROFT AND DISTRICT OLD HOME WEEK, FOR THEIR
UNDERTAKING AND WISH THEM EVERY
SUCCESS.



A Welcome by the Reeve

J. N. BROWN

To Our Former Residents, Friends and Visitors:

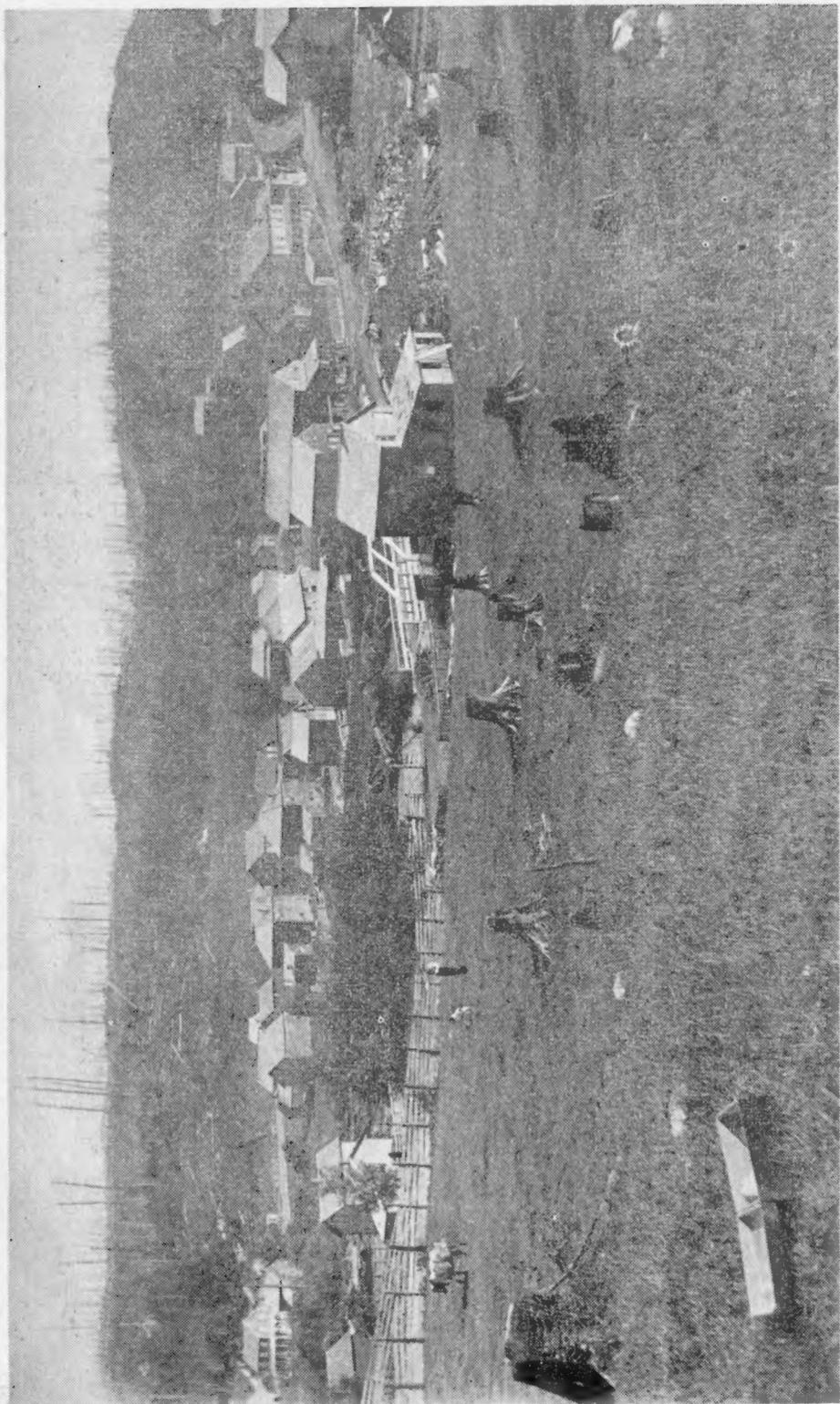
On behalf of the Residents of the Village of Bancroft, it is my pleasure to extend to you a cordial and hearty welcome to "Old Home Week".

For the past months our "Old Home Week" Committees, under the able Chairmanship of Mr. J. L. Churcher, have been making preparations for your reception. Bancroft and surrounding district has been well known for the friendliness and hospitality of its citizens since its incorporation in 1904 and in the previous years when it was known as York River and on this occasion we sincerely hope that your visit will be a happy one and that you enjoy the entertainment that has been planned for you so as to make the event a pleasant and memorable one.

To those of you from our surrounding districts, we extend a warm welcome. To those visiting us for the first time, we extend a sincere welcome with the hope that you will visit us soon again. To the Old Boys and Girls returning "home" again, we extend a special welcome. Here, in the district where you spent the happy days of your youth, we are sure that you will have the opportunity of renewing friends and acquaintances of former days.

We are waiting anxiously to meet and greet you, and hope that this reunion will remain a very pleasant memory through the years to come.

As Reeve of Bancroft, let me say, Welcome everyone, The Town is YOURS.



Bancroft In 1885

Historical Sketch of Bancroft

When this community was started just over one hundred years ago, the logical name for it seemed to include that of the river which was probably the reason why the first settlers decided to live where they did. The York Branch of the Madawaska provided power for the mills, fish for the table and was still used for transportation. So the first names were York Mills, York Branch, The Branch, and finally, so the people thought, York River. The name of the first post office here was York River, opened May 1st, 1851. This seemed satisfactory until the energetic character, Senator Bill Flint, arrived. Here was a remarkable, extroverted man, who had been Belleville's first President when that place was a police village in 1838. He hailed from Bridgewater (now Tweed) and was reeve of Elziver township, and Warden of Hastings County, later named to the Senate of Canada. There are not many townships in Hastings or Addington that do not have a record of his name on old deeds, title changes, etc. He was instrumental in bringing many people to this area - carpenters, millwrights, shoemakers and blacksmiths. As a sort of unofficial founder of this town, he felt that perhaps some recognition should be bestowed and in 1878-79 he applied to the Postmaster General for a change of name for the village, from York River to that of Bancroft, which was the maiden name of his wife. The people here did not take kindly to the proposition and sent a petition to the Government asking that there be no change. But the Senator prevailed and on October 15th, 1879 the name of York River was stricken from the records and Bancroft was on the map. The old post office date stamp is still in existence, with the old name, York River, and its last date, Oct. 14, 1879, still intact. In due time the citizens liked the new name which honoured a lady whom very



SENATOR BILLA FLINT



MRS. BILLA FLINT
Formerly Miss Phoebe Bancroft



MRS. E. ROUSE
Bancroft's first teacher.

few of them knew, the former Phoebe Sawyer Bancroft. And when Bancroft became a municipality the hatchet was buried forever, as the Flint's were honored with three streets named after them, Phoebe, Billa and Flint.

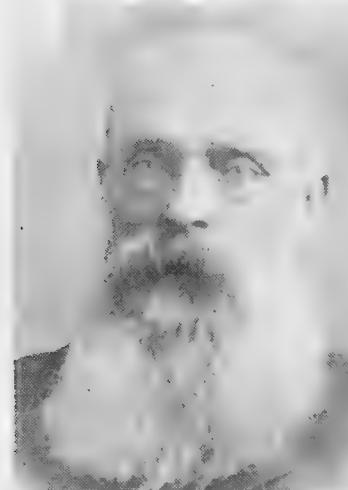
While the history of the Bancroft district does not start until the 1850's, Hastings County was in the news as far back as 1792 when Governor Simcoe proclaimed



MR. JAMES CLEAK

were still there. Negotiations commenced and in friendly conferences, the two tribes concerned relinquished their rights to the Government. The Mississage tribe surrendered their claims from Dungannon south, on May 31st, 1819, and the Chippewas gave up the rest of the northern townships on October 31st, 1823. Some Indian families remained for many years, but in diminishing numbers. There were still some to greet the first surveyors who were sent out to map out North Hastings into townships and divide the lands into 100 acre lots and to lay out roads and prepare the way for the influx of the first white settlers of the region. The first survey was completed from Madoc to where Maynooth now stands in the summer of 1853, and a further survey was made in 1855. The main thing was the road, just as it seems to be now. This road was the famous Hastings Road - the first one of three called by the same name. The first surveyor sent out had been given instructions to map this road out straight north, to intercept the Peterson Road at Maynooth and to continue to meet the Opeongo

Road near the Ottawa river. This Hastings road was to form the boundaries between the two western tiers of townships and it was to be a straight as possible. The surveyor took this instruction literally and it was the most rugged thoroughfare ever devised by man. It was straight in one sense. When it deviated 90° to avoid a swamp, or rocky outcropping, it compensated with a similar turn in the opposite direction as soon as possible. What made the surveyor not go straight over the Eagles Nest is not known, but he did skirt around its base. Maybe the eagles scared him. And so, in 1853 and '55 the work was completed and the lots were ready to receive the first permanent settlers. Advertisements were sent to Great Britain, and to the cities in Canada, painting a rosy picture of the country and dangling 100 free acres as bait. The conditions were not too stringent and the country of North Hastings was most pleasingly described. However nearly all of the first settlers came into the



NED JOHNSON

country with their eyes open. They knew they had to work and work hard, but they were made of the right kind of spirit and they took the challenges head on, and in most cases, came out winners. Some of the conditions were:



MR. W. DAVY, SR.

The settler must be at least 18 years of age; He must build a log-house and occupy it for four years; In that time he must clear and have at least 12 acres under cultivation. The log house to be built must be 20' x 18', and was usually erected by the help of neighbours. It could be finished in 4 days with the work of 5 men. The logs were cut and notched right off the property, the roof was of bark, the walls were filled in with clay and whitewashed. The sides would be banked with earth for insulation and in little time the homesteader was able to face the wintery blasts from warm comfort. The first cabins usually had two rooms downstairs, the kitchen and living room - although the latter was seldom used. All the bedrooms were upstairs because of the warmth. The beds would be home-made, sometimes made from balsam boughs with goose feather comforters. Most of the living was in the kitchen and in wintertime the rosy heat from the large cook stove made

the rugged outdoors seem far away. One of the conditions which was stressed was that the new life would not be for weaklings. The pioneer was assured of good returns for his hard work, with enough for his simple needs and a ready market for any surplus. Comforts were few, but he had the satisfaction of winning the tough struggle against a hard country and the labours and hardships of the first settlers were crowned with a real success which comes so seldom nowadays, when we have so much given to us without any trouble. And so, the challenge of the North of Hastings was taken up by some of the finest people who ever lived, and we can be humbly thankful for their efforts and the fruits of their labours.

WHO WAS THE FIRST?

We wonder who the first white man to have visited the Bancroft area could have been. There is evidence that one of the very first was a Lieutenant Walpole in 1827, who mapped a canoe route from Lake Simcoe through Baptiste lake, the York River and the Madawaska. The great David Thompson was here in 1835 and Alexander Murray some years later. But there seems to be a feeling that there were white visitors even before these. Who they were will never be known, but we can be allowed to speculate. About the only way they would have come was to "follow the waters", and as there were bands of Mississagis and Chippawas here, we can be sure that the "courier des bois", who made their living trading with the Indians for furs, or trapping themselves, would have made the trip. Or we like to think that the first white man here was a man of God, the ubiquitous "Black Robe", who in his indefatigable zeal to teach the savage and win his soul for God, made his way up the York River to this district. We wonder if he took more than a passing glance at the mighty Eagles Nest, or caught some trout from the rapids right in town. Whoever he was, we hope he enjoyed his visit and talked of his trip to his friends when he returned.

THE FIRST TO LIVE HERE

Down the C.N.R. tracks on the west side of the river and where a large pile of white stones, stock piled years ago for the mining venture which never developed, right behind Dr. Anderson's residence, there is the site of the first Bancroft home. It was here that the Clark family lived and were residing when the first surveyor came in 1853. Mr. Clark may have been a fur trader, or a trapper. We could not find out much about him. All that is known is that his wife and daughter were drowned in the river at the mouth of the creek which flows under Highway 62 near the residence of Reeve J. N. Brown. This creek is still Clark's creek, named after Bancroft's first family.

In the spring of 1855, hard on the heels of the first surveyor, came two young Englishmen, eager and willing to grapple with the harsh new country which was just

opening up. James Cleak and Alfred Barker were much alike in many ways. Both were educated men, with cultured upbringings in the Old Country. They seemed more suited to city life than the hardships of the bush. Perhaps it was the Englishman's love of land and privacy which promoted them to come to North Hastings. They were friends in England and remained friends in their new surroundings. Mr. Cleak, who we believe was the first of the two, settled near the east shore of Quarry Lake, and Mr. Barker took up his residence on the west of the same body of water.. These two 100 acre lots were the first to be picked under the free grant condition. Both were alongside the Hastings Road which was newly laid out. Before long, as many others followed them, Mr. Cleak started a small store. He became the first Postmaster of York River, 100 years ago, and eventually became a Police Magistrate. He moved to present day Bancroft and built the house which is now occupied by the Hattin Funeral Home.

Mr. Barker married Mr. Cleak's sister and settled down to making his home in North Hastings. He worked hard at clearing the land and farming and eventually became the first Clerk of the combined townships of Faraday and Dungannon. His son, Alfred Barker is Bancroft's oldest living citizen and was 91 on June 22nd, 1961. The present Alfred Barker recalls many stories about his father and the early days here. There were still Indians living, some at L'Amable Lake and others at LaVallee Rapids, with the famous Baptiste, Benoits, White Ducks and Bernards at Baptiste Lake. The Indians were always friendly and eventually all moved to the reservation at Golden Lake except the Baptistes who still live on the shores of their homeland waters.

Mr. Barker recalls how the first school north of Madoc was located just south of Quarry Lake. The teacher would board alternately with the various families in the area.

The two young Englishmen were followed by another immigrant from the same country, Mr. J. C. George. Mr. George was another well educated person, being an accomplished linguist. He turned down some tempting offers of teaching and interpreting positions to start his life in North Hastings. His home was at the north end of town, where Mr. L. Leedy now lives. Both Mr. and Mrs. George were sadly unsuited for the rigours of pioneer life. But they kept going and eventually made a success of their new life. J. C. George became the second postmaster here.

The next few families which arrived in 1856 to '61, were mostly Irish immigrants, fleeing the potato famines of their homelands. Patrick Kavanagh settled just across the



MR. AND MRS. J. C. GEORGE

river south of town, on the Anderson property. His brother, Dermot, or Darby, located three miles south and eventually became the first reeve of Faraday-Dungannon and was also the first Warden of Hastings from the northern tier of townships. Darby Kavanagh also kept a small store and was postmaster of Umphreville, by which the community there was known.

In those days many more families took up homesteading. The Spurr's, Tait's, Powers, McLeans, Kellys and Finnegans. A large Irish community was started at Maynooth, under the leadership of the famous Michael Doyle. The latter was noted for his strength and could walk from Maynooth to Madoc in one day.

From 1858 to 1872 there was a slow but steady influx of newcomers to the freshly opened North Hastings. All were eager to start their homes and get title to those 100 free acres. Most of the first people settled along the Hastings Road, which tried its best to run along the boundary between Faraday and Dungannon Townships. But, as some of Faraday was very rocky and swampy and not suitable to farming, and as Dungannon had some very fertile land, the latter township soon had more people than its neighbour. Then, too, the Hastings Road had to jog into Dungannon to get around L'Amable Lake. This beautiful lake, with its fast running stream flowing from its eastern end, attracted many people, and for several years L'Amable was the largest and busiest community in the district. There were stores, saw mills, a smithy and also a grist mill. South of L'Amable about 3 miles, was the Irish settlement of Umpraville, where Dermot Kavanagh had a store and Post Office. East of Umphraville was Turriff, and further north were some wonderful farm lands between present day Detler and L'Amable. North of the latter was the smallest of all, York River, with James Cleak as Postmaster and store keeper. He first lived at Quarry Lake, but by about 1864 built a fine large house on the west shore of the York River and this home is still standing, being the present day Hattin Funeral Home.

The Hastings Road veered west from L'Amable Lake to get back on the boundary line and ran somewhat west of the present Highway 62. It crossed the York at Dr. Anderson's farm and then continued along the river bank, up the hill past the hospital, and down through present day Bancroft, forming Hastings Street. It had to deviate to the west around the Eagles Nest, but go back to the border as soon as possible after skirting that towering landmark.

The first families who lived in present day Bancroft were scattered. On the west bank of the river, lived Henry Gaebel, some distance back and on a very large farm in a very large house, which is still talked about today. Then Mr. Cleak was located north of this as was described above. To the west of the Cleaks, lived the Vances, and beside them were the Siddons and the Sweets. North of the Cleak home lived the Clarks, who were the first. Then in the house now occupied by Lawrence Leedy, lived Mr. J. C. George, who became Postmaster after Mr. Cleak. The George house is the oldest building in town. Past this home lived the Philip Harding family and in front of the Eagles Nest was Thomas Sparrow. Farther on, where the local golf course is now located, lived the Sararas families. Down where the Hastings Road crossed the river was the farm of



MR. AND MRS. H. MCGILLIVRAY SR. — 1860

Postmaster and store keeper. He first lived at Quarry Lake, but by about 1864 built a fine large house on the west shore of the York River and this home is still standing, being the present day Hattin Funeral Home.

Patrick Kavanagh, who soon sold to Angus Kennedy and located a mile south. And just south of the Gaebel farm was that of Joseph Gandier, after whom "Gander Creek" is called. To the east of present day Bancroft lived the Bowers and the Bentleys. The Bronson and Weston Lumber Company had their large headquarters on the present Hysert farm, and some of their buildings are still standing. These were the first people to reside in Bancroft as it is today, a really scattered community, but more and more people were coming all the time.



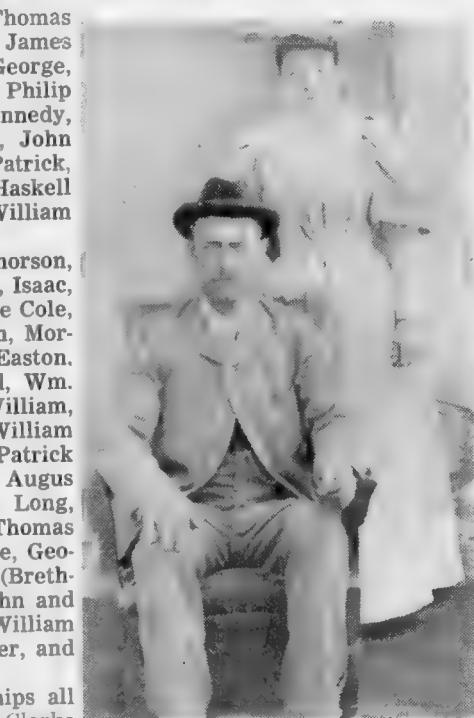
MR. AND MRS. ROBT. ELLIOTT

it tough, with crude implements and many were not used to making their living under such difficult circumstances. But they persisted and managed to come out on top. If we visit some of the old fields in the district and notice the huge piles of stones which they cleared painstakingly, and see the cedar snake fences which are still as good as most modern ones, we can appreciate the great amount of work and effort they expended. There were no eight hour days then. Work was from sunrise to well past sunset. The boys helped in the fields and bush as soon as they could, and the girls and women worked at home, mending, cleaning, knitting and looking after the house. In winter the men worked in the lumber camps, if they could. There were many tragedies and a few failures. But those who persisted had the satisfaction which comes only after effort and challenge. And so they came . . . by 1888 there were 31 families in Faraday and 58 in Dungannon.

Those in Faraday were: Joseph and Thomas Authorson, Alfred Barker, James Cleak, James Cleak Jr., Henry Gaebel, Michael Gaffney, George, Jebus and Joseph Gandier, John George, Philip Hardinge, Patrick Kelly, John and Ronald Kennedy, Charles, Francis, Robert and Josias Moore, John McAllister, Jas. MacFarlane, Andrew, John, Patrick, and Patrick Jr. O'Neill, Thomas Sparrow, Haskell and William Sweet, and James, Samuel and William Vance.

Those in Dungannon were: Charles Authorson, Henry Bentley, Christian Bierworth, Michael, Isaac, David and John Bowers, Henry Clarke, George Cole, Thomas Curry, William Dodd, Richard Doren, Morgan Doyle, Robert, George and Robert Jr. Easton, Michael Finnigan, George and James Gould, Wm. Hanna, August Hannan, Albert Hennessy, William, Henry and William Jarman, Edward and William Johnson, Dermot and Patrick Kavanagh, Patrick Kealy, James, Daniel and George Kelly, August Kennedy, Dennis and Louis Lavallee, Asa Long, Josias and James Moore, James Mountney, Thomas McCabe, Alexander McGibbon, Ken McKenzie, George Osbourne, John Power, August Prodour (Brethour?), Joseph Ray, John Saddlier, Henry, John and John Jr. Sararas, James Siddons, Ben Spurr, William and Isaac Stimers, John R. Tait, John Walker, and John Wilson.

Of these 89 families in the two townships all were called yoemen or farmers, except Henry Clarke (blacksmith), Henry Jarman (grist mill), Dermot Kavanagh (storekeeper and postmaster), George



MR. AND MRS. JAMES VANCE

Osbourne (carpenter), Asa Long (millwright), James Siddons (carpenter), J. R. Tait (merchant), Joseph Gandier (Cathechist), James Cleak (storekeeper and postmaster), John Saddlier (foreman for lumber co.).



DERMOT (DARBY) KAVANAGH
First Warden from the north - 1883

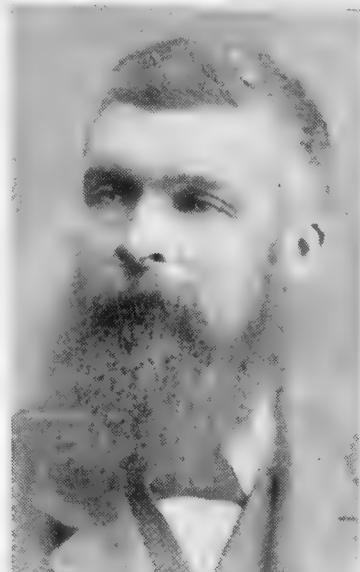
was scarce, but not needed in the pressing importance it is today. And on the plus side of life in those early times, there were no exhaust-breathing cars, no speedboats, no income tax, and very little land tax. Each property owner contributed 2 days work as statute labour and thus excused himself from certain township taxes.

An old ledger from one of the stores, shows in detail some of the transactions over the counter in those days. The earliest date shown is 1834. Some of the items in the ledger are in sterling, while later, the amounts are in dollars and cents. Here are some of the items:

1 gallon of whiskey .....	.80
1 pipe and 1 bunch of matches .....	.02
7 pounds of nails .....	.47
1 pound of tobacco .....	.40
1 pound of sugar .....	.13
Dinned for a small boy .....	.20
Dinner for a man .....	.30
1 pound of tea	5 shillings
1 pair of boots for the Old Lady	\$1.35
1 plug of tobacco .....	.02
A dress for the Old Woman	\$1.25
5 yards of factory cotton .....	.23
1 stamp for a letter .....	.06
1 broom	one shilling
1 hood, 4 yards of print, 1 ball of candlewick	\$2.90
1 pair of shoe-paks	7 shillings, 6 pence
1 spool of thread .....	.03
1 pair of blankets	\$4.00
1 grinding stone	\$1.44
2 days work	\$1.00
1 pair mits .....	.50
1 shirt .....	.60
1 whip-lash .....	.25
1 shot of whiskey .....	.05
22 mens' dinners	22 shillings

Many of the first settlers still have descendant living in Bancroft. Others have gone but left their names behind: Spurr Lake, Sparrows Landing, Gould Lake, L'Amable Lake, Stimers Lake, Bronson, Gander Creek, etc. These were the first to live here and their efforts have made the successful Bancroft that we have today.

How was life in those "good old days"? Despite the nostalgic reminicences of the very few who lived in those times and are still with us life in North Hastings was no picnic. There was a constant struggle to keep things going. The crude machinery which was used, was always breaking down. The fields had to be cleared. Most seed was sown by hand and there was back-breaking work for everyone. In the spring, there were hordes of black flies and mosquitoes to plague the people. There were many bush fires and when they started up, all the settlers could do was pack up for flight and pray for rain. Wolves were plentiful and wreaked havoc on the sheep and other small farm animals. And foxes took care of the 'owles at night. There were bad years when crop failures caused by draught and severe storms made the men worry about the next winter's food. Cash



JAMES SIDDONS SR.

22 men overnight	\$2.20	1 glass buttermilk .....	.05
4 horses stabled overnight and fed	.60	1 knife .....	.10
1 yoke oxen overnight .....	.50	1 pound soap	5 pence
1 hair net .....	.21	1 pair blankets & 3 glasses whiskey	\$5.10
1 hat for the wife .....	.60	3 pounds salt .....	.08
		1 plough	\$1.00

Compared with todays prices, things were easy in those days. But goods were scarce and many people could not afford any of the luxuries which we take for granted now. All supplies were brought in by wagon over the Hastings Road from Madoc, so there was not much room for anything but the essentials.

The first harvests of the newly cleared farms must have been a rewarding experience, as they saw the fruits of their labours become a tangible blessing. Cradles and Scythes were used for cutting grain and hay. To thresh the grain they used their hands or pounded the grain in sacks. Or they would spread the grain on the barn floor and use flails. Nearly every home had sheep, cows, horses and pigs. The women of the homes carded the wool themselves and spent many weary hours knitting and sewing. Most clothes were home-spun. The fat of the sheep was

used for tallow to make candles. Soap was made by leaching hardwood ashes. One of the first home industries was the making of potash which was sold in Madoc for the manufacture of gun powder. Potash was made by piling logs into a "log heap" and burning them. A platform of timber was made with a trough shaped log in the middle. On top of the platform was a wall 3 to 4 feet high. This was made as air tight as possible. The hardwood ashes were filled into this. The pile of ashes would be hollowed out in the centre and water poured in. It took a lot of water before it soaked through to the bottom and start running out the end of the trough. An iron kettle was used to catch the lye thus formed. When filled the kettle would be emptied into a 35 gallon container. This in turn was held over a fire and the lye boiled, then made into large cakes when cooled. The potash was then ready for market.

The maple trees were used for sap and sugar. Pillows and mattresses were made with goose feathers and who can remember sleeping on a feather tick? The early settlers were certainly a reliable lot, making things do and making use of their surroundings to get the very most out of the few things they had.

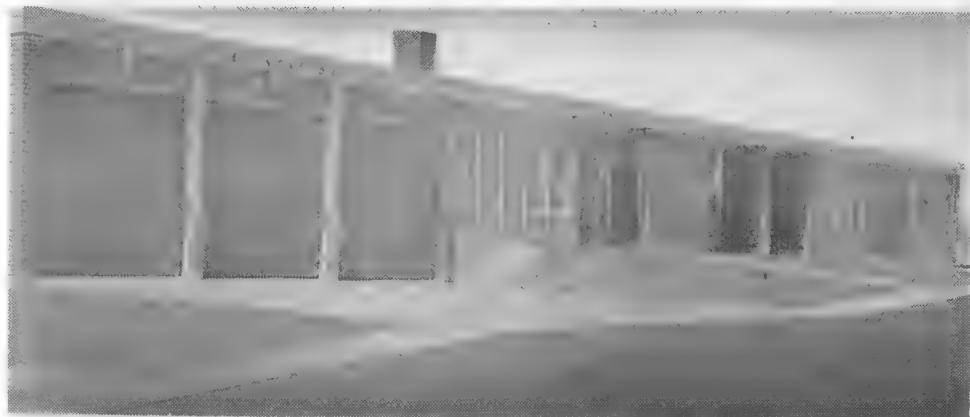


HENRY GAEBEL SR.

Wardens of North Hastings

Some of the reeves from North Hastings had outstanding records in municipal achievements and were honored by County Council by being chosen Warden. Reeves who were elected Wardens for Hastings have been: Dermot Kavanagh, Dungannon, 1886; P. P. Clarke, Limerick, 1896; W. J. Douglas, Mayo, 1903; Robert Lancaster, Dungannon, 1906; W. H. Nugent, Wollaston, 1916; Dr. A. T. Embury, Bancroft, 1921; Charles S. Rollins, Wollaston, 1924; Walter E. Wiggins, Faraday, 1925; Henry Haryett, Carlow, 1927; James Brownson, Mayo, 1935; John Churcher, Dungannon, 1940; W. J. Davis, Bangor, Wicklow, McClure, 1941; Dr. S. S. Lumb, Bancroft, 1943; Archie A. Harvie, Mayo, 1947; Clarke T. Rollins, Wollaston, 1950; and John N. Brown, Bancroft, 1959.

Municipal Life in Bancroft



In the Summer Session of the Hastings County Council of 1904, a petition was read from the ratepayers of Bancroft asking that their town be made an incorporated village, entirely independent of Faraday Township. A motion by Mr. MacFarlane of Tyendinaga was made that Council concur in the petition and the necessary steps be taken to incorporate the village. Mr. Thomas Kavanagh and Mr. David Fuller of Bancroft, were appointed to take a census of the village, the Council to bear all expenses. The motion carried. And so, on December 10th, 1904, Bancroft was officially incorporated and steps were immediately taken to elect a reeve and council for the municipal administration of Bancroft. The reeveship contest was hard fought between Mr. W. A. Davy and Mr. David H. Kelly. The latter won the honour of being Bancroft's first reeve by a single vote.

The first council was. Reeve—David Kelly, Councillors: Thomas French, I. A. Eby, Thomas Walker and George Wease. David Fuller was the first temporary Clerk. At the first meeting of the new council, a small controversy arose about the appointment of the first permanent clerk. Mr. Thomas F. Kavanagh was finally chosen and served in that position for twenty-four years.

During the years of incorporation, many fine citizens have stood in municipal positions. There have been many elections and at times the town has been fairly sharply divided. Municipal elections used to be a reflection on provincial and federal politics, with a lot of voters casting their ballots for the party rather than the man. But happily this is no longer the case. However, in the former years there have been some colourful elections. Some of the men "in the know" could predict the outcome of almost any contest. In those days, nearly every citizen was known to be a Conservative or Liberal, and there were few fence-straddlers. But there never seemed to be any bitter animosity during municipal elections, and after the ballots were counted, defeated and victor usually got together with their committees and followers for a post-election party, and everybody resumed being friends again.

The reeves and their councils were beset with many problems and not a few irate taxpayers would storm the meetings. But they managed to keep the town progressing on a fairly even keel, and we should take off our hats to these public spirited men for the hard work they performed in a thankless task.

The first Municipal officers were located in the Old Community Hall, a building donated by Senator Flint, and which was the centre of social life in the village. When it was burned, somewhat mysteriously, a new larger hall was built and this is now the United Church Parish Hall. This contained the Library, Gaol, Police and Municipal offices and the regular Magistrate's Court was held here, usually to a packed audience. In 1952, the Village council moved to new quarters on Hastings Street, the former Maxwell Motors building. But this proved too small and in 1960 the present large and efficient building was finished on Flint Street which contains the Library, Clerk-Treasurers' offices, Council chamber, Public Utilities Commission, the Police Department and the Fire Department. The work now done by Bancroft's municipal officers is far greater than was necessary when the village was first incorporated. The

tremendous increase in population, street problems, and maintenance, and many other tasks required, makes the job of running the town a difficult one. The present Clerk-Treasurer, Mr. John W. Gordon, and his assistant, Mrs. Marjorie Gordon, handle these difficult tasks efficiently. As a comparison, the first tax levy for Bancroft in 1905 had four entries and totalled 24½ mills, made up as follows: School rate -12½, Debentures for fire house - 1¼, County levy - 4, and general levy - 7. In 1905, the rate was even reduced to only 20 mills. Compare this with today's!

The 1961 municipal team is: Reeve - John Brown; Deputy Reeve - Allan Brownson. Councillors - Mrs. Audrey Sexsmith (Bancroft's first lady councillor), Earl Hawley, and Milton McGhee; Clerk Treasurer - John Gordon; Assistant Clerk: Mrs. Marjorie Gordon; Public Utilities: Gerald Westlake, Don Easton, Miss J. Foster, Miss Z. Easton; Police Officer: Eldred Rodyka; Road Superintendent: Leslie Rutledge; Fire Chief: Cecil McAlpine; Assistant Chiefs: Lawrence Leedy, Ronald Tryon.

List of Municipal Officers in Bancroft

Reeves: David H. Kelly, 1905 - 1906; James Best, 1907; David Fuller, 1908; Dr. A. Leavitt, 1909 - 1910; Thomas Walker, 1911 - 1912, 1914 - 1919; David H. Morrison, 1913; Dr. A. T. Embury, 1920 - 1925; E. Lorne Reid, 1926 - 1931; Judson A. Gunter, 1932 - 1935; Dr. S. S. Lumb, 1936 - 1944; Peter A. Kellar, 1945 - 1948; Theo. Tryon, 1949 - 1955; John N. Brown, 1956 - 1961.

Deputy-Reeves: M. J. McAlpine, Jr.; Clifford Broad; Allan Brownson.

Clerks: T. F. Kavanagh, 1905 - 1907 and 1915 - 1936; George Jarman, 1907 - 1911; I. A. Eby, 1912 - 1913; W. A. Davy, 1914; R. F. Delyea, 1935 - 1945; Frank Towle, 1945; Art Towle, 1946; T. A. Sills, 1947; Balfour Vader, 1948 - 1951; Peter Stringer, 1952 - 1955; George Toner, 1956; John Gordon, 1957 - 1961.

Treasurers: W. J. Sargent, 1905; Fred Mullett, 1906; C. Stanyer, 1907 - 1908; George Jarman, 1909 - 1911; W. Detlor, 1912; Frank Thomson, 1913 - 1934; Eric Moxam, 1935 - 1942; R. F. Delyea, 1943 - 1944; Charles Maxwell, 1945 - 1950; P. J. Stringer, 1951 - 1954; G. Toner, 1955; John W. Gordon, 1956 - 1961.

Among the many Assessors and Collectors in Bancroft have been: C. Stanyer, Frank Thomson, W. Ballard, James Best, R. C. Fair, John Bailey, Joseph Lindsay, Frank Towle, William Broad, Peter Stringer, George Clark, Daniel Bronson, Clifford Avey, Gerald Moxam, Gerald Towle, George Jarman, William Simmons, Thomas Kavanagh, Ed Woods, Harry Reid, James McCaw, William Gaebel, Bob Delyea, John Spence, Dave Morrison, J. K. Sheppard, Wm. Moore, Wm. Davy, John Young, and Gerald Moxam.

Two Bancroft citizens have served the town for long periods of time, Tom Kavanagh served for 25 years and Frank Thomson for 23 years.



REV. MR. MOORE AND GROUP OF W.A. LADIES' AT A PICNIC AT JAS. VANCE'S.



On November 9th, 1956, the Toronto-Dominion Bank opened a branch on Hastings Street to cater to the ever growing demands of an expanding economy in the area. The first building was a temporary pre-fab structure 16' x 36' and there was a staff of three. The manager was Mr. E. P. Arbic, who is still in charge. A new and larger building has replaced the original one and the staff now numbers nine. There are now two main entrances and the coloured panels which make up the exterior have made this bank an imposing sight on Hastings Street.

Loyal Orange Lodge No. 624

The Loyal Orange Lodge of Bancroft is one of the oldest lodges or fraternal organizations in this district. It became a chartered lodge of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America on April 4th, 1892, to be known as No. 624.

The first Worshipful Master was Chas. H. George. Other charter members: Wm. A. Davey, Thomas Greenfield, H. C. Humphreys, James Siddons, George E. Davey, Edwin Gould, Wm. Lees and others.

An Orange Lodge Hall was built on John St., and was used by all the Orange Orders and Black Preceptor 614, until recently, when a new hall was built on Spring Street.

Ladies' Orange Benevolent Assoc.

The Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association (L.O.B.A.) was organized on January 19th, 1926, by Mrs. S. Proudman of Ottawa. Mrs. Thos. Walker, who had been a member in Toronto, was the first Worthy Mistress with Mrs. F. A. Towle as Deputy Mistress.

Some of the other officers were: Mrs. Clarke Russell, Mrs. R. W. Robinson, Mrs. George Patton, Mrs. Ed. Dowd, Mrs. Herb. Card, Clarke Russell, Mrs. Harry McCaw, Mrs. John Vance, and Mrs. H. M. Price. Meetings were held once a month in the old Orange Hall, on John Street.



The 1904 12th of July Parade - On Bridge Street, Bancroft

The Bancroft Times Est. 1894

On the 16th day of December, 1894, The Bancroft Times made its debut under the Editorship of the late John Bremner, who conducted the business for about three years and a half, selling out to the late D. H. Morrison. For twenty-one years he gave this town and district a weekly paper second to none in Hastings County. In declining health he disposed of his interests in the business to H. M. Price in 1918, a former apprentice who after six years of Newspaper experience in Western Canada and Ontario, took over the business on January 1st, 1919. In 1927, S. R. Walker joined The Times as an apprentice and remained with Mr. Price until leaving for active service overseas.

During the war years, The Times, with insufficient help, experienced great difficulty in getting out each week's issue, which meant long hours of work. Type was still all hand set and the week-to-week effort of "getting out the paper" left little time or energy for anything out of the common run.

In 1945 S. R. Walker returned from overseas and again joined The Times, entering into a partnership with H. M. Price on January 1st, 1946. Striving to keep abreast with increased trade and business expansion additional office space was leased and a linotype, folder and Original Heidelberg Press installed. With these improved facilities production and delivery of the weekly paper and job printing was speeded up. However, in spite of the shorter hours of work, the burden of the war years began to take its toll and ill health overtook the senior member of the firm. In January of 1957 Mr. Price died.

Mr. Price's interest in the firm was then purchased by S. R. Walker. Offset equipment for commercial printing along with other modern machines have gradually been added to give the readers and advertisers better printing service.

The Times, an "all home" print paper, enjoys an ever growing circulation. The advent of the uranium mines, the increased population, the economic growth, the Service Clubs and active organizations have all been a contributing factor. The support of our faithful rural correspondents and local advertisers have had a share in making this possible. To each and every one of you we extend our sincere thanks.

The Bancroft Times is a member of Graphic Arts Industries Association, Ontario and Canadian Weekly Newspapers Associations.

The present staff: Alan Forde, compositor; Dennis Baker, Linotype operator; Franklin Walker, Pressman; Stanley Loney, apprentice; Eva Walker, bookkeeper, with S. R. Walker, Editor. Part time assistance: Fay Mountney, linotype, and Hilda Ellerbeck.

At this point, we extend a hearty welcome to you who may claim Bancroft or vicinity as your birthplace, or you who may have at any time in your life resided here. May you enjoy Bancroft's first Old Home Week.



BANCROFT CITIZENS ENJOYING THE SUN ON THE NEW BOARD SIDEWALK

Compliments of
Commercial Printing Department

The Ontario Intelligencer Limited
Belleville, Ontario

Creators and Designers of Fine Printing

Compliments
of
Wiggins Motors Ltd.
your friendly
Chevrolet - Oldsmobile Dealer

Bancroft

Phone 16

— O.M.L. —

Box 759

Reg Wiggins

Cecil Wiggins



SOME BIG MEN OF BANCROFT

F. Baalim (230), Ed. Maxwell (250), Jack White (390), John Oakes (125), Dan Munro (260), Bob Robinson (245)



BANCROFT'S FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Charlie Mullett, John Payne, Lorne Reid, Mike Rouse, Bob Fair, Frank Thompson, Frank Towle, Frank Mullett.

Greetings

from Wallace and Eunice

Bancroft Frigid Lockers

Best Wishes

Frank Cowen Co. Ltd.

WOODSTOCK

ONTARIO

friendly...

efficient...



people make the difference a

THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK

THE BANK THAT LOOKS AHEAD



The Hospitals

As the village of Bancroft became more populated, with residents doctors, the need for proper accommodation for the sick and injured became greater. Dr. Embury and Dr. Beeman often talked about it and in fact the Embury house on the corner of Sherbourne and James Street was built with something like that in mind. For several years patients stayed there for short times. The Nurse in Charge was Mrs. J. Plunkett. But while this was better than nothing, it was far short of what was needed and finally the efforts of the doctors and other good townspeople, bore fruit with the building of the Red Cross Outpost on Flint Street, opposite the Public School. The land for the building was donated by Edward Maxwell, and a lot of labour was given without charge. The town and district was canvassed and considerable cash was raised. And on January 20th, 1927, the official opening of the hospital took place. The Bancroft Times reported it thus:

"January 20th witnessed an important occasion of most vital interest to the residents of North Hastings. On that day the Red Cross Hospital was officially opened to the public. The building is most compact, the two wards are beautifully lighted and comfortable. The room furnished by the Belleville Creamery is most attractive and inviting. The operating room is being most efficiently equipped. The operating table, placed there, is a memorial to the late Dr. Truman Beeman, and no more appropriate memorial could be offered than this. In life his one thought was to serve his fellow man. The two resident nurses are Miss Gall and Miss Watson. They received assistance by Mrs. W. J. George and Mrs. George Payton. During the evening a programme was offered in the Community Hall. Mr. W. E. Wiggins was Master of Ceremonies in his usual able manner. The following gentlemen were invited to the platform: Dr. F. W. Routey, Ontario Red Cross Society Director; Dr. Farley of Trenton, Dr. A. T. Embury, M.P.; E. L. Reid, Charles Rollins, W. N. Gilroy, Rev. R. Stalker, Rev. Father Brady, Rev. N. R. Stout. Mr. Alfred Jordison, Dr. W. Alexander, Dr. S. S. Lumb and Mr. Ed. Maxwell. After the ceremonies on the platform, dancing was started and the large crowd enjoyed the orchestra conducted by Mr. Herb Card for many hours."

The Red Cross Outpost continued to serve the residents for almost 20 years. But by 1939 it became apparent that the building was inadequate to accommodate the ever growing needs of the community. The nurses worked hard under difficult conditions at times, and once again steps were undertaken to either enlarge the hospital, or build a new one. World War Two intervened but the need for a change became more acute as the years went by. As soon as conditions permitted the ground was broken for a beautiful new building down along the river on Hastings Street South. On October 13th, 1949 the official opening took place, the corner stone being laid by Mr. S. McArey, Warden of the county. This 22 bed hospital, set on a lovely site, and on well tended grounds, is a source of pride for all the people of North Hastings. It has always been busy and when the mining boom occurred, with the great population increase, there have been times when the capacity of the building has been taxed.

The efficient nursing staff and modern facilities has more than ever before, made the hospital a valuable asset to the community. There are four private rooms, four semi-private rooms, four wards and a children's ward. There is an x ray room and an operating room. The decor throughout the building is pleasing and restful. It's a nice place to go when you're sick.

The present Matron in Charge is Miss Sigrid Laine. Among the many Head Nurses who have been in charge of the present building and the old Outpost Hospital have been Miss M. Foy, Miss E. Allibon, Miss Hayward, Miss M. Armour, Miss E. Chapman, Miss E. Alton, Miss G. Edwards and Miss R. Franks. The present staff consists of five Registered Nurses and five Certified Assistants.

Mr. Bert Griggs has been a faithful and efficient Hospital Attendant for over 30 years. Much credit must be given Bert for the splendid condition of the building and grounds, all the result of his devotion to his work. He has been a very able assistant to all those in charge of this important building.



JANUARY, 1920

Mr. Pace Coones who is always outspoken in his criticism has written us to say that after attending the moving picture show on Saturday evening he has arrived at the conclusion that the men who built the town hall could not have seen very far into the future. He suggests that it be turned into a lunatic asylum.



ONE OF THE FIRST CLASSES IN THE RED SCHOOL HOUSE
Mr. Johnson, Teacher — About 1898



The Three "R's"

The first educational accomplishments for the children of the pioneer families in North Hastings was strictly rudimentary and parental. There was too much work to be done clearing the land and getting a home started to be bothered with book learnin'. But the parents even then knew the necessity of education and as soon as it was possible every effort was made to obtain a teacher.

The first teacher would instruct their charges in the homes, spending a week or so in each and then travelling on to the next neighbour. But this was not satisfactory, so the first school was built approximately in the centre of the community. This was a little south of Quarry Lake, on the old Hastings Road. In order to keep expenses down as low as possible, the teacher would board alternately with the families whose children were being taught. By about 1870 there was a school near Umphraville and then another at L'Amable. As the people began to settle in Bancroft, a school was built just about where the Robinson home is now situated, on Hastings Street. The first teacher was Miss Sarah Cooper, then Miss Murray.

For a time one teacher handled the L'Amable and Bancroft Schools with the pupils commuting to which ever building was being used at the time. The Bancroft School was eventually replaced with a larger, but still one-roomed building, near the site of the present Public School. The first teacher there was Miss Elizabeth Kavanagh, who was later Mrs. E. Rouse. The maple trees which still grow on the school grounds were planted by Mrs. Rouse the first year she taught.

In those first schools there were not the easy facilities which the modern pupil takes for granted. There were no seats, but benches. There were no scribblers or pencils, but the pupils had pieces of slate with a stub of a slate-pencil. They had to be careful not to have their work rubbed off or washed away. The number of subjects taught were few but they were basically important. Arithmetic, Spelling, Writing and Reading were prominent. A great importance was placed on mental arithmetic, something which is lacking these days. It was an asset to be able to figure quickly and as there was a lack of note books, pencils and pads, most of the work was done in the head and retained by memory. The ability to write well was also stressed and memory work was given a prominent place in the curriculum. Books were rare, but what few there were, were of high quality and the pupils read them thoroughly. There were no comics, or lurid literature then. The teacher was held in high regard in the community and was a very strict disciplinarian. The pay was low even then, but many dedicated teachers cheerfully

came to this country to instruct and teach. An example of the mental arithmetic questions used in those days is: "If you had an eight gallon pail full of water, and a five gallon, and a three gallon pail, both empty, how would you measure out four gallons exactly?" This question had to be figured without pencil or paper.

Even so, many families were so scattered that some children never came to school at all. Many grew up never knowing how to read or write. But they were able to take care of themselves in practical ways. They could handle an axe, or knitting needles, a plough, or butter churn. Many a pioneer's home was built as square and true as any today, with only the builder's eye and home made measures to keep things straight.

As Bancroft's population continued to grow, the old one-roomed "Red School" became too small and an additional room was built. By 1913 the need for more room became pressing, and steps were taken to build a new building on the same site, but a little west of the old school. This met with some opposition, especially when it was decided to add a two room Continuation School to the new building. But the efforts of Dr. Embury, Mr. Eby and several other good citizens prevailed and in 1914 the splendid new school was opened and everyone was proud of it.

The school served the community for many years. In time it too was overcrowded, but managed to struggle on until 1931, when it was totally destroyed by fire one cold winter's morning. Even before the fire was under control, the Board was planning a finer better building, and in 1932 the new institute of learning was opened. The six public school rooms and the two Continuation rooms seemed to be adequate to fill the needs of the community, but with the population increasing more than ever, new rooms were built and today we have a very efficient 16 roomed school.

There have been many splendid teachers who have served the children in the Bancroft Public School. Outstanding among them has been Wesley C. Summers, who was principal for many years. Here was a typical school-master, able and stern, and carrying out his duties in an efficient manner. He handled many difficult situations as some of the school boys he had under his charge were as far from being model pupils as they could possibly be. Despite the exasperations and disappointments, Mr. Summers continued to mill out the students into the world or into the Continuation School for many years. A firm believer in old fashioned punishment, his rubber strap was always in his hip pocket. One of the tests of initiation was to snitch the strap from his hip pocket, cut it up in little pieces and slip the remains into his desk undetected. Despite the tribulations of handling a bunch of young teen-agers like this, Mr. Summers held onto his sense of humour and would often recall these incidents well after accepting his more than deserved retirement.

Some of the old Bancroft Times lists the pupils who attended the public school. Thus we have in October of 1904: Sadie Dobenski, Willie Mack, Harry Mack, Alma MacPherson, Bruce Kelly, Victor Meagher, Archie Sabourin, Willie Woodcox, Pearl Haase Leo Meagher, Clinton Weese, Mackey Haryett, Ida Davy, Ada George, Annie Ballard, Bertha VanLuven, Elwood Cleak, Harvey Walker, Grace Best, Edith Mullett, Mabel McCaw, Harry Jarman, Gordon Reynolds, Mabel VanLuven, Maggie Robinson, Dean Collins, Harold Ballard, Shirley Robinson, Violet Jackson, Harry Dobenskie, Wilfred Siddons, Elvin Haase, Lena Davy, Percy Cleak, Blanch Siddons, Eva Payne, France Stranyer, Olive Jackson, Lillie Brown, Roy Payne, Oswald Fuller, Warren Davy, Id Levine, Effie Gould, Myrtle Lees and Nellie Fraser.

In July of 1911 the results of the entrance examinations showed 17 successful out of 49 candidates. These were: John Drury, Irene Liddle, Lilly Levine, Agnes Henderson, Ella Lindsay, Olga Davy, Warren Wilcox, Marjorie Davy, Robert Gerrard, Sand Lummus, Gertrude Gould, Florence Wilson, Herbert Maxwell, Mae McGinnis, Emerson Laundry and Bert Power. Some of these were from out of town schools.

In September of 1917 another list of pupils appeared in The Times: Ada Plumley, Ronald Davy, Helen Colling, Carl Sinc, Hugh McMillan, Pearl Vance, Dorothy Embury, Elizabeth McMillan, George Bierworth, Merle Vader, Florence McLean, Charles Jones, Vivian Hawley, William Kennedy, Ruby Bierworth, Vereen Kelusky, Fred Delyea, Ma Hawley, George Thomson, Ida Hawley, Kathleen French, Alma Musclow, Ken Watson, Fred Peever, Joe Rouse, Fred Embury, Allegra Watson, Gladys Kennedy, Hazel Foster, Hazel Maxwell, Grace Davy, Jack McCaw, Harold Steenburg, Beatrice Robbins, Lug Reynolds, Leola Kelusky, Carman Vandervoort, Ross Lindsay, Joe Cassidy, Mac McGhee, Harry McCaw and Edith Bailey.

Bancroft Public School, 1917: Lillian Delyea, Ruth Reynolds, M. Colster, Luella Reid, Lois Reynolds, Reta Davy, Harold Park, Hilda Cameron, Doreen Card, Helen McLean, Laura Whitefoot, Roy Robinson, Inza Gaebel, Herb Peever, A. Closs, Chester Davy, Elsie Towle, Lena Webb, Dorothy Askey, Alice Robinson, John Moxam, Marjorie Morrison, T. Villeneff, Leo La Vader, Calvin Vardy, Walter Mullett, Tom Kehoe and Lillis Peever.

And there were: Alma Maxwell, Muriel Embury, Howard Chase, Gertrude Hawley, Luelle Foster, Harry McLean, Milton Fisher, Royce Vader, Bertha Gaebel, James Vance, Claude Card, Anna Kelly, Gerald Moxam, Lloyd McLean, Mary Peever, Rosina Bierworth, Annie Delyea, Bessie McCaw, Francis Askey, Allan Ironsides, Marjorie Colling, Norman Fisher, Harold Watson, Irma Kelusky, Stewart Robbins, Earl Barker, Dermot Kavanagh, Harry Watson, Clayton Parks, Irma Steenburg, Jessie Colling, Gladys Steenburg, Jack Kavanagh and Earl Allan.

The January 21st, 1918, primary room results were: Herbert Peever, Mona Rouse, Helen McLean, Doreen Card, Jack Kavanagh, Inza Gaebel, Roy Robinson, Elsie Towle, Margaret Barker, Roy McKenzie, Roy Smith, Marjorie Morrison, Willie Vardy, Laura Whitefoot, Chester Davy, Remona Stringer, Dora Hawley, Walter Mullett, Tommy Kehoe, Doris O'Neill, Gerald Towle and Clifford Broad.

March 18th, 1920, reports the following pupils in first room: Carl Card, Frank Hannah, Stan Walker, Willie Whitefoot, Elmer Robbins, Curtis Jones, Elvin Maxwell, Leslie Broad, Margaret Keenan, Ivan Bailey, Elwood Reid, Viola Twa, Lubelle McKenzie, Ronald Maxwell, Hilda Walker, Leslie Stringer, Gerald Kavanagh, Mabel Vandervoort, Arthur Towle, Jean Thomson, Violet Russell, Ethel Askey, Olive Peever, Harvey McKenzie, Lexis Hannah, Alex Russell, Edna McCutcheon, Earl Hawley, Alex Peever and Gladys Conlin.

In January, 1929, the following pupils were in the senior grades at the Public School: Alfred Burns, Rita Stewart, Laura Edwards, Iva Robinson, Myrtle Thompson, Gordon Barker, Edith Towle, Roy Barker, Rita Casselman, Bella Moxam, Edna Kehoe, Gerald O'Shaughnessy, Iona Jenkins, Margaret Joyst, Jack Rupert, Emerson McCormack. There were Mabel Barker, Nita Munro, Alex Broad, Edward Wilson, Jim Joyst, Wilbert Kellar, Amelia Mountney, Earl Hannan, Phoebe Edwards, Noreen McAllister, Edith Metcalfe, Ivan Stringer, Verna Hawley, Cecil Viscoff, Jean Russell, Alex Vandervoort, Aileen Rupert, Claude Kruger, Hazel Robinson, Reginald Summers, Lizzie Vardy, Hugh Munro, Frances Casselman, Harvey Baumhour, Verna Wilson, Irene Conlin, Gerald Gaebel, Verna Kelusky, Donald Munro, Enid Thompson, Harold Piumley, Elsie Thompson, Thelma McCormack, Jean McLeod and Peter Kellar with Mr. Summers, the teacher. We are lucky to have a picture of this class in this book.



BANCROFT PUBLIC SCHOOL
1929 — Grade 8
W. C. Summers, Principal

The big fire of 1931 destroyed many of the records which would have been a valuable asset to this book. Many fine teachers who have been in Bancroft have been omitted from this chapter as memory of their names has failed.

The present Public School consists of 16 rooms including a well populated kindergarten. The principal is Mr. Gary Stevenson and the vice-principal is Mr. Leyton Shouldice. The teachers are: Mrs. C. Trotter, Mrs. E. Schram, A. M. Hewitt, R. W. Hillis, Mrs. Gertrude Vader, Eugene Foster, Miss H. Liddle, Mrs. Enid Eddy, Mrs. Vera Laundry, Mrs. Caroline Ferguson, Mrs. Lila Loney, Mrs. Frances Vance, Mrs. J. Bates, Mrs. A. Tryon and Mrs. Trula Wiggins.

Teachers in the past have been: Miss Phyllis Sine, Miss Grace Maybee, Theda Anderson, Morton Graham, Robert Ogilvie, Mrs. John Goodkey, Miss G. Babcock, Mrs. J. Mahaffey, Mrs. N. Ashley, Robert Watson, Murray Lee, Gordon Fresque, John Russell, Miss McKendry, David Smith, Miss Ethel Davis, Duncan McPherson, Edwin Dyck, Mrs. Bernice Rosewell, Joan Robinson, Hilda Clark, Susan Gordon, Kathleen Lyle, Mrs. Reta Brewer, Elizabeth Bleeker, Maureen McIntosh, David McLeod, Barry Boal, Diane Cuthberston. These have all taught within the past few years.

Those who taught long ago have been: Miss M. Pollock, William Bowerman, Miss Watt, Miss G. E. George, Miss Fern Barker, Miss Edna Mitchell, Miss Pearl Mallory, Miss Westcott, Miss Stirling, Miss M. Donovan, Miss Betty McEwen, Miss Dixon, Mr. McCorneil, Miss Little, Mr. Johnson, Sydney Smith, M. Pringle, Olive Anderson, Mr. Watson, Stan Harris and Miss Thompson.



BANCROFT PUBLIC SCHOOL

JULY 25TH, 1935

How Bird's Creek derived its name.—A visitor to the Bancroft Times on Tuesday was Mr. Francis Stirling Bird, a gentleman of 89 years old, and he was very anxious to say that the little hamlet of Bird's Creek derived its name from his father, the late Robert Bird. His father had surveyed the Old Hastings Road from Eldorado to Maynooth about 79 years ago. Mr. Bird advised that his father felled a tree across the stream to make a landing on the opposite side and while walking the stick of timber, slipped off and fell into the creek, giving it the name of Bird's Creek to this day.



Ontario Hydro

Completion in July 1959 of Ontario Hydro's new Area Office and Service Centre symbolized the almost unprecedented growth of rural hydro in the Bancroft district. Situated on Hwy. No. 28 within the village limits, it is ideally located to serve the needs of the increasing number of customers receiving rural hydro service.

From a modest beginning of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of line and one customer—the Red Cross Hospital—in the Fall of 1949, the area now serves some 4,000 rural customers and maintains over 500 miles of rural lines.

The area comprises the 15 northern townships of Hastings County, as well as Cardiff and Harcourt Townships in Haliburton County, and amounts to approximately 1,800 square miles of territory. The area is also responsible for over 25 miles of 44,000 volt transmission lines and two sub-stations. Assistance is also provided to the Bancroft Public Utilities Commission.

The present staff of twenty-two is under the direction of Area Manager C. T. Hunt, and includes a Chief Clerk, five office clerks, Wiring Inspector, Stockkeeper, Area Line Foreman, Crew Foreman, six linemen and six other field staff. A Sales and Service Representative is to be added in the near future, and establishment of a seven-man forestry crew is expected to take place this fall.

Bancroft district is indeed fortunate in having a rural hydro headquarters located within its boundaries, and the electrification of our rural areas has enabled the residents to enjoy all the comforts and advantages which electricity provides. The last decade has seen tremendous changes in North Hastings, and Ontario Hydro can be justly proud of the significant part played in helping to keep pace with the times.

JANUARY, 1918

A very fine specimen of an American Eagle was brought up to town by a young man named Sararas, who shot the bird while it sat in a tree, feasting upon an owl which it had captured. It measured six feet from tip to tip of wings and was on exhibition in Game Warden McCaw's butcher shop where many other game birds have been viewed by the vulgar public. Mr. McCaw tried to sell the eagle to a customer for a turkey and would probably have succeeded had he taken the precaution to remove its talons. These he explained were developed abnormally owing to the fact that the snow had been very deep and it had been compelled to scratch for a living all winter.

DECEMBER 8TH, 1932

Marble and New Museum Wing Refute Propagandist's Claim—The following article was taken from a recent issue of the Toronto Telegram. Bancroft marble used in the construction of the Ontario Museum. Mr. Currelly pointed to the beautiful work about the building in marble from hues varying from the palest grey to the richest browns, blues and red that the workmen themselves had told him that they never had worked with such resisting material, in itself testimony to its enduring quality. The marble and sodalite came from Bancroft, Ontario, Professor Currelly said. People hardly know about it and it has scarcely been used. There are tons and tons of it. The work here should draw attention to this great readily available wealth.

GREETINGS
Bancroft
Sheet Metal
 ART. YOUNG
 Proprietor
 Phone 291 Bancroft, Ont.

Maxwell's
Taxi
 Hastings Street North
 Phone 57 Bancroft
 Day or Night

Easton's 5c to \$1.00 Store
 BANCROFT, ONTARIO

Greetings to Bancroft
Flynn's
Grocery
 Phone 68

Flowers
 Party Flowers, Wedding & Funerals
 Artificial wreaths in stock
 Where only the best is good enough
 contact
Hessie LaBarge
 Bancroft Phone 188W

Ye Olde Barn Coffee Shoppe and Restaurant
 Bancroft North, Highway 62

We Specialize in Steaks and Southern Fried Chicken
 Open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dinners at all hours.
 Souvenirs and Novelties

The Bancroft Mineral Society

Rocks have always been characteristic of the Bancroft area, but homecoming former residents will find that rocks and minerals have assumed a new significance in the District. Not only is there the activity in the uranium mines that has drawn international interest to Bancroft, but we are becoming known all over the continent to the Rockhounds, that curious species of mankind that can be found searching over all places where there are outcroppings of rocks, rock-cuts, excavations, or mineral locations. The tap, tap of their hammers can be heard at all times of the day and in all kinds of weather. The materials they succeed in gathering fascinates and amazes the average onlooker both from its beauty and variety. Pick up any standard work on mineralogy and you will find Bancroft listed for sodalite, hackmenite, amazonite, and the rare earth group of minerals. Some local people as individuals have always been interested in digging up the crystal forms or mineral specimens which abound in the York River area, but it was only on May 16th, 1960, that anything was done on an organized basis, when the Bancroft Mineral Society was formed.

It has been stated that in the fringe of the Canadian Shield running from Madoc through Bancroft to Wilberforce, over 1600 different mineral species have been identified. Unfortunately the commercial minerals have not been sufficiently concentrated for successful mining in most cases, though we have been more fortunate in the case of uranium. However the area has become a veritable "Rockhounds' Paradise," and more kinds of mineral specimens may be found within a fifty mile radius of Bancroft than any other place in the North American continent. In one former mine, McDonald Mine, over fifty kinds of minerals were located.

During the summer and fall last year the Society held weekly field trips, as well as four Sunday "Mystery Trips" to some of the places where good specimens were known to exist. The known locations have by no means been covered, and this summer the weekly expeditions will start from around the Tourist Information Booth, opposite Bert's Barber Shop on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 sharp, and more Sunday expeditions are planned than were held last year. These "caravans" of Rockhounds and Pebble Puppies had over forty participants at times, and will likely be even larger this summer. Visitors are always welcomed, and last year a record of names and addresses was kept and each visitor was sent a Christmas Greeting card with a picture of the Bancroft Mineral Society put up for a time in the display case at North Hastings High School. The Bancroft Chamber of Commerce printed a map showing some of the mineral locations as prepared by the Bancroft Mineral Society, and these were distributed to tourists and other interested persons. An improved map is again being distributed this summer. The past spring the Mineral Society prepared a display of rough and polished gem and jewellery material, crystal forms, metallic minerals, and radio-active minerals and refined uranium and thorium oxide from the mines; for the Madawaska Valley Tourist Association booth at the Sportsman's Show in Toronto. Specimen cards with twenty popular local materials are prepared and for sale at Bert's Barber Shop or from any member of the Mineral Society. These make excellent souvenirs of the district as well as interesting specimens for collectors. Enquirers to Toronto about Ontario's mineral or gem cutting materials are constantly being referred to the Bancroft Mineral Society, and collectors who have been amazed by the wealth and variety of our material are passing along the information to their friends or broadcasting the information through Rock and Mineral publications across the whole continent. Several of our members have gone actively into lapidary, or cutting and polishing jewellery, with many excellent pieces to show for their efforts.

This year's list of officers for the Bancroft Mineral Society is: President—Ross Strong; Secretary—Mrs. Dorothy Needham; Treasurer—Allen Dubblestein; Public Relations Chairman—Bert Ellerbeck; Publicity Chairman—Harold Petch; and Programme Chairman—Fred Beckley. Address any correspondence to: The Bancroft Mineral Society, Box 16, Bancroft, Ont.



Compliments
of
PRICE'S
SHELL SERVICE STATION
Phone 387
Hastings and Station Streets

R. W. Jenkins
Phone 60R1-1 P.O. Box 151
BANCROFT, ONT.

HOME APPLIANCES
JOHNSON OUTBOARD MOTORS
POWER CHAIN SAWS
SALES AND SERVICE

**ROBERT G.
KELLAR**
General Insurance

Phone 157 P.O. Box 187
Hastings St. N.
BANCROFT, ONT.

*Best Wishes for a
successful Old Home Week*
It has been a pleasure to have
served your community with
automobile parts and equipment
for the past fifteen years.

Walkwood Limited
LINDSAY Phone 324-2156

To The Old Home Week Committee

We offer our congratulations and good wishes on their initiative
and for the compiling and production of this book.



River Bend Motels Ltd.

Motel and Cabin accommodation up to 150 persons
Tent and Trailer Park for over Eighty cars

Bancroft North

Phone 549W



Bancroft Lions Club, Inc.

To fill an urgent need for an active Service Club in Bancroft, a group of wide awake citizens formed a Lions Club in October, 1945. The Club was sponsored by the Peterborough Lions and elected energetic John Follis as its first president.

Since that date, 16 years ago, the Bancroft Lions have made a fine reputation for welfare service and dedication to the betterment of the community. Many welfare projects have been completed and the club is always ready to take on new endeavours. Among the accomplishments of this club, the erection of the North Hastings Community Centre stands out. This \$25,000.00 indoor rink has given the children a wonderful chance for skating and hockey. Each winter, hundreds of youngsters play Canada's national game under the supervision of volunteers. The great senior Bancroft hockey teams have given the fans plenty to cheer about. The Bancroft Skating Club uses this building and has presented some wonderful ice carnivals.

The Club has a Santa Clause parade each December which attracts thousands of people to town. Last year 2,700 bags of treats were given out to the children. Old and needy folk are given boxes of food and clothing at Christmas, last year about 40 families were helped.

The Lions have developed the swimming pool each year, and have provided a qualified instructor each summer. The instructor teaches beginners, watches everyone and helps all to learn the rules of water safety. There have been no accidents at this pool in the sixteen years.

The club also sends the local handicapped children to summer camp. Burned out families have been helped with food, clothing and cash. A little girl was sent to the Mayo Clinic for a delicate and successful operation. Over 200 pairs of glasses have been provided.

The members are proud of their past president, Lion Whitney Martin, who is a former Governor of Lionism and is classed as an International Counsellor.

The members' wives have formed a Lionette group to help their husbands in welfare work and also to do some good deeds on their own.

Past Presidents of the club are, Lions Jack Follis, Rolly Haryett, Bill Hopper, Whitney Martin, Cecil McAlpine, Jack Brown, Cecil Wiggins, Mike Burns, Jim Brown, Art Tompsett, Clarence Marston, Reg Wiggins, M. J. McAlpine, Jack Hattin, Ray Tompkins, Gordon Groves and the present chief is Eddie Arbic.

The Bancroft Lions wish all former Bancroftonians a pleasant Old Home Week and hope to meet them all during the events.

George T. Whitfield Co., Ltd.

Plumbing - Heating - Tinsmithing

Gar Wood Furnaces - Clare Hecla Furnaces
 Space Heaters - Fire Chief Chimneys
 Inglis Hot Water Tanks
 Plumbing Fixtures - Pumps

Residence Bancroft : 572

If no answer - call : Wallace Musclow - Bancroft 352-J-4

STATION STREET - BANCROFT 42

TRIPP'S
ESSO
 SERVICE

Hwy 28 S.
 Bancroft - Ont.

ATLAS TIRES
 BATTERIES
 ACCESSORIES

*Trent Glass
 Limited*

839 ERSKINE AVENUE
 PETERBOROUGH - ONTARIO

serving Bancroft and Area
 with a complete
 "GLASS SERVICE"

Our sincere Best Wishes to you
 on the occasion of your
*Old Home Week
 Celebration*



The Bank of Nova Scotia in Bancroft

The branch has been open continuously for more than 55 years.

It was opened as a branch of The Metropolitan Bank on November 5th, 1905. This institution was amalgamated with The Bank of Nova Scotia on November 15th, 1914.

The first Bank of Nova Scotia manager here was E. E. King, who took over at the time of amalgamation. His successors have been; John Ross, 1921; R. H. Dewar, 1929; D. L. Doyle, 1937; J. W. Hahn, 1945; G. E. Calbeck, 1947; C. F. Hibbard, 1950; S. Rowsell, 1954; R. W. McCain, October 1958; L. C. Lockhart, March 1961.

Mrs. Hibbard still lives in Bancroft. Mr. Rowsell, who is retired lives in Renfrew. Mr. McCain is now manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in New Liskeard. Mr. R. H. Dewar lives in Ottawa, at 628 Courtenay Avenue.

Number on staff: 1946, six; 1949, nine; 1959, seventeen; 1961, eighteen.

Since May 1st, 1959, Bancroft Branch has operated a sub-branch at Maynooth, Ont. This was a full branch from December 30th, 1957 until the date given above but local conditions did not warrant its continuance as a full-time independent branch.

The Bank of Nova Scotia was the only bank represented in Bancroft until 1956.

An interesting fact about this branch is that up until the postwar period an unusually high percentage of its business was done by correspondence. "Bank By Mail" is far from being a new feature in the Bancroft district: indeed it flourished in the early years of the century.

Welcome
Back
Folks

Ye Olde BARN
Restaurant
Bancroft North

BANCROFT
DAIRY
LTD.

*Pasteurized Milk
Products*

*Maxwell's
Regent
Station*

Hwy. 28 Phone 532

Rambler Cars

DUNLOP TIRES
GAS - GROCERIES

*Welcome
Home*

LORNE DAVY
*Carpenter and
Builder*

Highway 500
Bancroft, Ontario



Faraday Uranium Mines Limited

Credit for the original development of the Faraday Uranium Mines deposits belongs to the late Arthur H. Shore, a local prospector. In 1949 Mr. Shore confirmed the presence of uranium in Faraday Township. Mr. Shore gradually acquired ground and on June 22nd, 1949, formed a company, Faraday Uranium Mines Limited, to which claims were transferred.

The first full-scale development program was initiated during 1952. This work was undertaken by interests (now Augustus Exploration Limited) which took over financial and management control of Faraday Uranium Mines.

By September, 1955, sufficient underground work had been completed to permit a comparison of tonnages and grades with those indicated by diamond drilling.

In January, 1956, Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited contracted to buy uranium concentrates from Faraday Uranium Mines. The next 12 months were spent preparing the mine for production. Homes were also built along the shores of Bow Lake for key mine personnel and 40 more houses were erected for employees at the Company's town-site in Bancroft.

On April 4th, 1957, the first ore was fed to the concentrator and on April 14th the first uranium precipitate was produced. Soon the mill was treating 1,000 tons of ore per day, which was gradually increased to 1,600 tons per day.

The company commenced paying dividends January 25th, 1961; the initial disbursement being 15 cents per share.

Laundry's Food Market

Limited

Choice Meats and Groceries

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

LOCAL DELIVERY

Hastings Street

Bancroft, Ontario

Phone 388

BANCROFT THEATRE CO. LTD.

G. E. BROUGHTON

INDOOR AND DRIVE-IN

The Latest in Pictures

Phone 204 & 232

P.O. Box 669

St. Paul's United Church, Bancroft

St. Paul's United Church is the result of a union of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Bancroft in 1918, some 7 years before the United Church of Canada came into being in 1925. As in many villages and towns in western Canada and northern Ontario, the members of the two congregations in Bancroft believed they could make a better witness to Jesus Christ together.

Both the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches began to work in the Bancroft district about 1870. When Mr. A. B. Hames was probationary minister in 1871, a Methodist church building was started. Bancroft was still known as York River. The building was formally opened for Divine worship in 1872 but not completed until 1875. Mr. Hames in his memoirs tells about working with Mr. James Henderson, his successor, in the woods to prepare timber for the frame. He describes York River as a small village consisting of one store, a post office and a saw mill and half a dozen small dwelling houses. He also mentions a large settlement of thrifty farmers on both sides of the river and in Dungannon Township. The one Methodist mission included the whole settled part of North Hastings.

The Presbyterian Church served this area with summer student ministers. The work centered in L'Amable where a church was built in 1881. About this time Knox Presbyterian Church was organized in Bancroft and a church building was in use by 1889. This building was sold when Knox Presbyterian congregation united with St. Paul's Methodist congregation to form St. Paul's United Church.

The first Methodist church building was too small, and in 1897 the Methodists constructed the presently used church. In 1954 a sizeable addition was built to the church and the basement improved. A new parsonage was constructed on James St. in 1950. In 1959 the congregation purchased the Bancroft Community Hall for use as a Church Hall.

As the average length of ministry has been 3 years, a great many ministers have served St. Paul's United Church and its parent congregations. Their names and the year they began their ministry in Bancroft are as follows:

METHODIST

1871	A. B. Hames	1884	T. H. McDonald	1903	M. J. Bates
1872	James Henderson	1887	Chas. Mearing	1907	Wm. J. Johnson
1873	Samuel Salton	1889	W. H. Buckler	1908	Wm. H. Spargo
1874	W. P. Brown	1893	William E. Smith	1911	Thomas Wallace
1875	James Baskerville	1894	Hiram Rowe	1912	Ernest Hurston
1877	T. E. Morden	1895	A. L. Brown	1913	Joseph Mellor
1880	Albert Wheeler	1898	A. C. Huffman	1915	Andrew McLauchlin
1881	William Tucker	1899	Thomas Anderson	1917	Matthew E. Wilson

PRESBYTERIAN

1898	Students in the summer supervised from Madoc	from 1881 to 1898
Robert Sturgeon	1903 Chas. E. Gordonsmith	1907 J. S. Petrie
1899 William Stewart	1905 R. McKnight	1910 A. E. D. McCann
1902 E. W. Watson	1906 Walter Roger	1912 Daniel Fisher

UNION CONGREGATION

1918	Matthew E. Wilson	1920 William Johnston	1921	E. M. Cook
		1924 Robert Stalker		

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

1928	D. J. Campbell	1937 W. J. Davis	1947	R. Mac Eachern
1931	J. M. Fraser	1939 N. R. Flower	1950	K. M. Cutler
1934	A. W. Harding	1943 R. W. McLaughlin	1952	Alan Borland
	1955 S. E. Snowden	1959 F. J. Burn		



THEO. TRYON

Welding and Repairs

Bancroft, Ontario

Phone 190

Box 10

FOR THAT HOME-MADE FLAVOR TRY



ENRICHED
WHITE BREAD

Available At Your Neighborhood Food Store

"LISK'S ON THE LABEL MEANS
QUALITY ON THE TABLE"

THE
**TORONTO-PETERBOROUGH TRANSPORT
COMPANY, LIMITED**

O'Connor Dr. at Sunrise Ave., Toronto 16, Ont.

DAILY SERVICE TO AND FROM:

Ajax	Dundas	Peterborough
Aldershot	Hamilton	Pickering
Bancroft	Havelock	Port Credit
Belleville	Lindsay	Port Hope
Bowmanville	Madoc	Roseneath
Bonte	Marmora	Tweed
Burlington	Maynooth	Whitby
Clarkson	Newcastle	and
Cobourg	Oakville	intermediate
Deloro	Oshawa	points

Transhipment to any point in Ontario

Enquire about truckload rates

Stainless steel tankers, low bed floats and dump truck service over most of Ontario.

"T.P.T."

Serving Central Ontario for more than thirty years with fast dependable service

The Pentecostal Church Bancroft

The history of the Pentecostal Church in Bancroft does not reach too far into the past. However, the humble beginning was as a seed that has grown until the present place of worship became the church home for a fine group of people.

About the year 1921, two evangelists came to this area and held meetings in homes, particularly near Turriff and Bronson. The next year they returned and with a tent meeting began the formulation of a congregation. The next spring one of these men returned and took up residence in the area, and has remained in Bancroft.

This man, Arthur Metcalf was the messenger of the Pentecostal message to this locality. He has worked with the Faith Mission in Trenton, and became the leader of the full gospel peoples in the area. Meetings were held in homes, and in the Orange Hall. Therefore problems as there usually are in the formulation of a new church, but steadily they moved on, and with God's blessing saw spiritual growth.

A few years later, Mr. Spillenar was invited to come for meetings. He at that time was working with the Pentecostal Holiness group, and it was with his leadership that the first place of worship was opened. A building was moved from Whitney, and became the church home of the Pentecostals.

Then, after Mr. Spillenar moved in 1941, the building was purchased by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Up until this time the church had been independent. Three young women came to work as deaconesses for one summer, and then Rev. Jacobson came to pastor the church. He at present is a missionary in the West Indies. He was followed as minister by Rev. F. Harvey and Rev. W. Stevenson, under whose leadership the present building was erected in 1948, and the congregation became fully affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada with head office in Toronto. Since Mr. Stevenson moved to Havelock, Rev. Esler and Rev. Rogers have shared in the pastoral care of the church known in the community as the Pentecostal Assembly.

Best Wishes
of
**The
Public Utilities
Commission
of the
Village of
Bancroft**

St. John's Anglican Church, Bancroft



The first clergyman to serve the people of this district was the Rev. Edwin Scammell. In 1882 he lived in the Bronson area and would conduct services in the Town Hall. In the fall of 1887 he was succeeded by Rev. H. H. Farrar, who organized his people to build a new church in Bancroft. A vestry was formed in May of 1889, with H. Z. Cassell elected as People's Warden and Fred Mullett as Rector's Warden. The building committee was composed of the Wardens, the Rector and Mr. W. J. Sargent. The present property had been purchased and Mrs. Fred Mullett donated a further parcel of land. The people of the Anglican parish worked hard on their church, and in 1889, it was opened for services in December. And in 1890, the church was consecrated by the Bishop of Tornoto, Rt. Rev. Arthur Sweetman. Most Rev. Archbishop Lewis also attended and administered the Sacrement of Confirmation. The last member of the first Confirmation class, Mr. Walter Wiggins, passed away not too long ago.

Since then, the parish has grown, and developed. A beautifully kept cemetery at the Eagles Nest is a credit to the peoples' efforts in caring for the last resting place of their dead.

A parish hall was erected in 1948, the grounds were landscaped, a new sidewalk laid, the gift of Mr. Wiggins. The Women's Anxiliary has done much to equip the parish hall, providing complete banqueting services. The electric lighting in the church was been the gift of Misses Alice and Edith Mullett and their brother, Mr. Charles Mullett, in honour of their parents.

The list of the clergy who have served this parish is as follows: Reverends Edwin Scammell 1882-87; H. H. Farrar 1887-93; T. Leech 1893-1900; N. H. Creegan 1900-03; J. E. Lindsay 1903-04; J. C. Dixon 1904-08; T. H. Hall 1908-13; G. T. Goodhand 1913-14; J. Cantrell 1915-18; H. R. Pettem 1918-22; N. R. Stout 1922-31; J. B. Creegan, Curate 1927-31; A. F. Dowdell, Curate 1929-30; A. E. Pepper, Curate 1930-33; C. H. Quarterman 1931-32; E. N. Grant 1932-37; Mr. D. H. Morrison, Lay Reader 1937-38; G. A. Gordier 1938-43; W. L. Simmons 1943-45; R. F. Gardham 1945-47; J. B. Hall 1947-49; C. S. Wright 1947-49; W. F. Smith 1949-53; E. O. Johnston 1953-58; and the present Priest-in-Charge is Rev. G. R. Rennison.

Church Wardens who have served their parish have been J. K. Sheppard, H. Smith, D. H. Morrison, W. E. Wiggins, F. Mullett, F. Askey, H. L. Skuce, John McCaw, Wm. McCaw, Geo. Brown, W. M. Simmons, G. L. Jarman and H. Z. Cassell.

Lay Readers have been James Howell, John Ballard and D. H. Morrison.

In 1957, the Parish of Bancroft was established as a self-sustaining parish. The territory was divided into three parts: Bancroft, Cardiff and Mayo. Dungannon and Faraday Township are under the Bancroft jurisdiction. The northern section is administered by Rev. J. M. G. Soutter of Maynooth and the southern part is administered from Coe Hill.

Ambitious plans are in store for a new church at Cardiff townsite, as soon as the uranium situation becomes more clear. The old Mission house was sold and the former Mullett house purchased for use as a rectory. This fine old brick building stands at the corner of Flint and Dales Streets, at the top of the hill above the church and easily accessible to all parishioners.

The people of the parish of St. John's have every reason to be proud of their church and the part it has played in Bancroft's development. Many of their fine clergymen took active parts in the town's progress, especially with the younger folk, teaching and directing them in the proper ways of physical, cultural and spiritual activities.

O. Gregory Anderson

B.A., LL.B.

*Barrister and
Solicitor*



Bancroft, Ontario

Congratulations

Peterborough
Office Supply Ltd.
340 George St.
Peterborough, Ont.

Meet Your Old Friend
at Bancroft
Old Home Week

Vance's Garage

Dodge - Plymouth
Chrysler - Valient
BANCROFT, ONT.

*Best Wishes
on your
Anniversary*

Ban Mar

SHOES
MEN'S WEAR

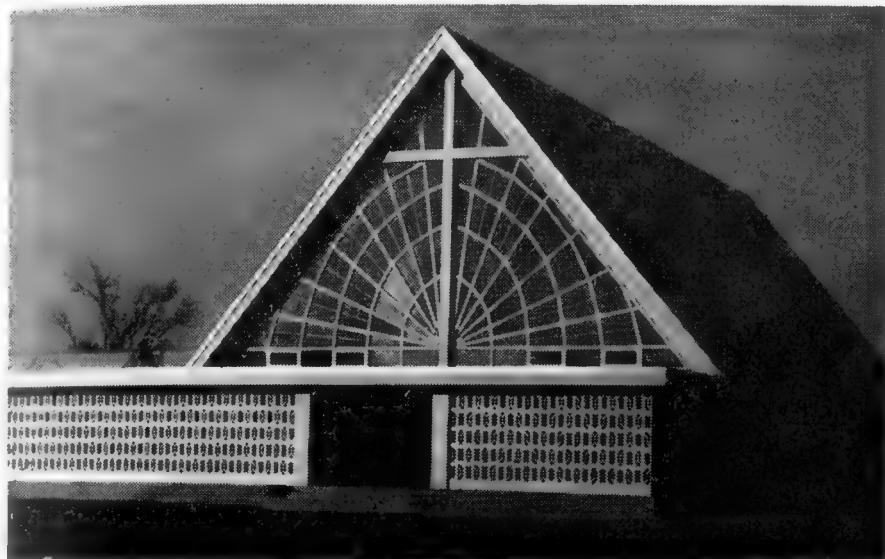
RUSSELL M.
HAWLEY

**British American
Oil Products**

Fuel Oil
Furnace Oil
Stove Oil
Gasoline
Motor Oil
Tires, Batteries
and Accessories

Phone 17, Bancroft

Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church



When the Irish Immigrants settled in North Hastings in the early 1860's, they formed three separate communities. The largest was at Maynooth, then called Doyles Corners. The other two were the O'Brien settlement on the old Town Line and the Kavanagh settlement known as Umphraville, which was about 7 miles south of present Bancroft. As this area was drained by waters which flowed into the Madawaska river, it came under the spiritual influence of the Diocese of Pembroke. The nearest priest, Father O'Byrne lived at Eganville and he and his assistant, Father Casey undertook ministering of their far scattered flock. A circuit of the parish was made in 1863 and Mass was celebrated in the three communities. In 1865, Brudenell parish was formed and its resident priest, Father McCormac, looked after North Hastings until 1881. when Maynooth parish was formed with Father Meehan in charge. Maynooth priests served Bancroft as a Mission for many years. There were Fathers, Meloche, Motard, Marrett who constructed the church in Bancroft, McInerney and Warnock. In June 1901, Bishop Lorrain blessed the 300 pound bell which still calls the faithful with its distinctive sound.

Father Brady succeeded Father Warnock and this jovial priest endeared himself to everyone in the district for 16 years. In 1935, Bancroft itself was raised to the status of a parish with Father L. J. Kennedy its first resident parish priest. Father Kennedy served with quiet efficiency until 1957. He accepted the charge of Calabogie and left the expanding parish to Father Henry Maloney and once again an Eganville priest was given charge of the Bancroft Catholics. He arrived on September 8th, 1957 and found that the mines had brought a great influx of parishioners, and without too much fuss went about doing something to relieve the situation. Exactly two years later he opened a beautiful four-roomed school under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph, with a lovely Convent adjacent. And less than 8 months later, the first sod was turned on a large new church, which was completed before 1960 was over. And so, from the humble beginning of Fathers O'Byrne and Casey serving a few scattered Irish families, we now have a magnificent church, honoring the Mother of God, Our Lady of Mercy.

And in the two cemeteries which belong to the Bancroft Parish, there lie the remains of those hardy, fearless pioneers who struggled to make their home in a strange and rugged land, and at the same time, keeping the Faith which is manifested in the parish today.



The people
of
Faraday Uranium Mines
LIMITED

are
proud to join
with their neighbours

in
celebrating
BANCROFT
OLD HOME WEEK



The Gospel Hall

The work concerning those known simply as "brethren" or "Christian brethren" had its beginning in the Bancroft area around the year 1880.

Mr. Richard Irving was the first full time evangelist to visit this part at the invitation of Mr. Colp, who had moved to the vicinity some time before.

Mr. Irving's diary, published after his death in April 1944, states that he visited such places as Hybla, Boulter, Hartsmere, McArthur's Mills, Ireland, Beechmount, Fiss Settlement, Moore's School, Bronson, Little Carlow, Lakeview and other places around Bancroft. Often Mr. Irving walked from place to place whether it happened to be raining or though the sun shone brightly.

Others who came to Bancroft after Mr. Irving were Mr. J. N. Case (later known as Dr. Case of China), W. Hunter, W. L. Faulkner, J. Gilchrist, C. W. Black, F. May, Mr. Clapp and Mrs. A. S. Rolph to name a few. Later Samuel Taylor, G. Rainey, F. Peer and R. J. Brooks worked much in and around Bancroft.

Meetings in Bancroft were from house to house and in close by Lakeview in the formative years of the work. It wasn't long though, until numbers increased and a room was rented above Mr. Thos. Maxwell's harness shop and then over the drug store—now the Bank of Nova Scotia location.

The Lord continued to bless His Word and more souls were added to His Church making it necessary to expand quarters. Therefore the Presbyterian Church building was purchased around the year 1924.

The "brethren" continued to meet in this building until the present Gospel Hall was erected in 1951 as numerical growth continued.

The early preachers of the Gospel believed, as do the ministers of today, the well known Scripture verse, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. It is old, yet ever new!

Best Wishes
TO
Bancroft's Old Home Week
FROM THE
I. G. A.

We Feature
We Feature Choice Quality Foods
At The Lowest Possible Prices

Congratulations
and Good Wishes



E. D. HARDY & COMPANY
Limited
INSURANCE ADVISERS
Booth Building - 165 Sparks Street
OTTAWA, CANADA

The Bancroft - Cardiff Kinsmen Club



The active service organization was formed in 1959, and is limited to the younger men of the district, as is customary with all Kinsmen Clubs. By their enthusiasm, the members have built up a reputation of action, with their efforts mainly directed to encouraging sport among the youngsters.

They have sponsored Little League Baseball, thus making the first real contribution to an organized baseball set up in the area. Many hundreds of young boys are being taught the rules of the game and the proper sportsmanship which is even more necessary.

Yet the Kin have not confined their activities to sports alone. They have been ready and willing to take part in welfare projects and have already completed many projects in the three short years of their Bancroft charter. Among these are: A scholarship of \$125.00 to the most deserving student from N.H.H.S. who will attend Teachers College, Donations to the Bancroft Scouts, the Potato Club, looking after burned out families and other welfare work and many other really worthwhile projects.

The first President was Kin Bill Hainsworth, and he was followed by Kin Lloyd Robock and Joe Vance.

Their future looks assured in Bancroft as their membership, while small, is very active and the town has benefited greatly from their efforts.

THE BANCROFT TIMES

Established 1894

S. R. WALKER, EDITOR

Published Weekly in the Interest of North Hastings

Letterpress and Offset Commercial Printing

Rubber Stamps

Business Forms

Stationery Supplies

Box 520

Phone 20

Will Ye No Come Back: “Velkommen” Bievenue:

Join us in making this occasion a memorab'e cne.

Martin Brothers Lumber Company Limited
and
G. W. Martin Lumber Limited

“There is just nothing like WOOD”

What do you plant when you plant the Tree?
You plant the ship that sails the sea,
You p'ant the keel the keelson the knee:
You plant the mast to carry the sails,
You plant the plank that withstands the gails:

You plant all these when you plant the Tree.
What do you plant when you plant the Tree?
You plant those houses for you and me,
You plant the ceiling, the walls and the floors:
You plant the roof, the windows, the doors,
You plant the studs the plank and the forms:
You plant all these when you p'ant the Tree.

* * * * *

Bancroft has good administration,
Bancroft has been good to over 100 businesses,
Bancroft will be good to you too, should you decide to settle here



Canadian Legion Branch 181

The Great War Veterans were organized in the village in approximately 1919, with Comrade Lewis Benjamin the first president. The veterans had no home of their own, and met in stores, rented halls and homes for their meetings.

In 1931, they were organized as the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L., Branch 181. After World War II, it grew to over 100 members. B. Vader was the most active president, and held this position for the longest number of years. He was in office when the first hall was built in 1947. Much credit is due the late Warren Mintz for his labour, the help of volunteer members and wonderful community assistance. This hall burned three years later. Plans were formed for the erection of the present hall with the contractors being, Keech and Laing, of Killaloe. At this time Murray Black was president.

Presidents have been: L. Benjamin, B. Vader, M. Brough, D. Wilson, T. W. Tryon, Jas. Maxwell, John Goodkey, Wm. Lavallee, M. Black, D. Kelly, E. Thomas, R. T. Creighton.

Secretary-Treasurers have been R. Price, John Vance, Geo. Twa, Wm. Dillon, S. R. Walker, for the two halls, and present Building Fund Treasurer, M. Fox, F. Delyea, R. Summers, M. Black.

Norma Powers is the present secretary, Russell Hawley, Treasurer, and R. T. Creighton, president.

IN MEMORIAM	
1914-1918	STONEAR, MALCOLM L. STRICKTON, WILLIAM SWANSON, FRANK THORNTON, JAMES R. TURF, JACK WALKER, ALFRED WATSON, DAVID T. WHITE, ERIC EDWIN W. WILCOX, GEORGE WILSON, AVES WOODCOCK, MELVILLE WOODCOCK, WILLIAM W.
1939-1945	ANDERSON, WILLIAM R. BOWERS, WILLIAM H. BROADLEY, JOHN BULLOCK, CECIL CAROL, JOHN CHURCHER, ALMER E. COOGLAN, CLARENCE CRIBBY, GORDON DODDS, WALTER J. GOODLEY, LEONARD E. HAWKINS, WILLIAM E. JACKSON, ERWIN KEEDY, VILTON KENNEDY, WILLIAM C. LINK, F. WALLACE H. MANSON, ELLIS MCALPIN, WILLIAM MCCLAW, FRANCIS MCINTOSH, GEORGE MCNAUL, JOHN J. MCNALLY, EDWARD MCPEAK, CLIFFORD NEIL, ELLEN PAINTER, DONALD POPPIE, MURRAY PRENTICE, MC. WILLIE SHANNON, CLARENCE A. SHELDON, M. V. STOUGHTON, BERNARD THOMAS, DONALD F. TOWNS, RAYMOND VARDY, ALBERT E. WEIMER, CLIFFORD WHITMORE, LLOYD WOODCOCK, JOHN H.
KOREAN WAR	ROBBINS, WILLIAM

THEIR NAME
LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

ED. STROME SALES LTD.

Heating - Cooking - Refrigeration

GAS AND ELECTRIC APPLIANCES
FOR ALL HOME NEEDS

Sales and Service - 24 Months to Pay

C.C.M. Bicycles and Service
Distributors of Saf-T-Gas - Modern LP Fuel

Home Photography

Weddings - Events
Family Portraits

Phone 270

2 EAST ROAD

-

BANCROFT, ONTARIO

The Bancroft Post Office



On May 1st, 1961, the first post office called York River, was established in the area at the home of Mr. James Cleak, near Quarry Lake. Mr. Cleak, the first postmaster received an annual salary of \$15.00. Mail was received from Glanmire, near Millbridge, once a week. Mr. Isaac Stimers was the first mail contractor and usually walked the 30 mile distance, for which he received \$128.00 per year.

Mr. Cleak remained postmaster until April 4th, 1871 and then the office was transferred to Mr. J. C. George. The office was moved to Mr. George's house, now occupied by L. Leedy, at the north end of town. Mr. George also received a nice increase of \$2.00 per year. As the railway came to Bancroft in 1900, mail was delivered from it, and a railway Post Office was established with two mail clerks on duty. Among these were Mr. Bleeker, Mr. Stange and Mr. J. Wilson.

Mr. George held the office until 1909, when his son Elvin was made postmaster in February of that year. By this time Bancroft was receiving tri-weekly service, and when the I. B. & O. connection to the town was finally made, a daily service resulted. Shortly after 1900, the post office was moved to a new site opposite the Bancroft Hotel. Elvin George was a popular postmaster, keenly interested in sports and community welfare. After his death in 1935, he was succeeded by his former assistant, Miss Alice Kavanagh, who became Bancroft's only postmistress. Miss Kavanagh held the office until her retirement in 1950, after 50 years of postal service.

Miss Kavanagh was succeeded by the present postmaster, A. M. Burns, on May 5th, 1950. Mr. Elwood Brough is assistant postmaster.

In 1935 the delivery of mail was transferred from the C.N.R. to that of the Stapley Bus Service, and Bancroft has been served by mail bus ever since. Mail is now received and despatched to Bellville by Mr. Roy Card, the present contractor. In addition, Bancroft is the despatch centre to some 25 post offices.

The first of three rural routes was established in 1921 and this route handled about 25 families east of town. The first contractor was, Mr. L. York, still operates this service and now contracts for two other rural routes, No. 2 north and west of town and No. 3 south and west. The latter route is one of the longest and largest in Canada, serving about 500 families, including Cardiff office and all the mines and resorts in the area.

With the mining boom causing tremendous increases in postal duties and service, a new building was erected and officially opened on November 17th, 1957. This new office on Station Street now has a staff of six, with a part-time caretaker. It handles almost a million dollars gross revenue a year, and has 738 lock boxes.

It is a far cry from the original York River office, indeed.

Phone Tweed 311

Thomasburg Auto Parts

Home of Used Trucks

Specializing in Truck Farts & Bodies

*Our
very best
wishes*

**DEYELL'S
BOOKS &
STATIONERY**

393 George St.

Dial RI. 2-295

Peterborough, Ontario

COMPLIMENTS OF

Cherney's

ONE OF CANADA'S GREAT STORES FOR THE HOME

Peterborough . . . Oshawa . . . Cobourg



History of Bancroft Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 482

In the summer of the year 1905 a petition comprising the names of eleven Master Masons in Bancroft and surrounding territory was forwarded to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario, Most Wor. Bro. James H. Burritt, of Pembroke, Ontario, for a dispensation to form a Masonic Lodge in the Village of Bancroft. Prior to this date members of the Masonic Order travelled to Madoc Village a distance of 47 miles to attend lodge which was Madoc Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 48. Grand Lodge granted the Petitioners a dispensation on November 13th, 1905, to be known as Bancroft Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 482 and meetings to be held on the Thursday evening on or before the full moon. The lodge met in the upstairs room of a two-story building just north of the Queen's Hotel. A Warrant was granted to Bancroft Lodge on July 15th, 1908, by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Sometime around the year 1910, the Bancroft Lodge members erected a new two-story Masonic Building on the east side of Hastings Street in the business section of the village, which building is still the home of Bancroft Lodge, the lower floor being rented to The Bancroft Times, owned and operated by Mr. S. R. Walker. The first Wor. Master of Bancroft Lodge was the late Wor. Bro. John Ballard whose picture appears with this article. Since 1905 there have been 51 Masters of Bancroft Lodge, 16 of whom are deceased. Our present Wor. Master is Wor. Bro. Wm. H. Davy, grandson of the late Bro. Wm. A. Davy, one of the founders and business men of our village. The lodge has now grown to a membership of approximately 240. Several members of our lodge have now received their 50 year Jewel in recognition of 50 years of continuous membership in Bancroft Lodge.

*Wor. Bro. R. W. Blatherwick
Secretary,
Bancroft Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 482*

Compliments of the
Manufacturers of
**PLAYER'S
CIGARETTES**

WELCOME
To All Old Home Week Visitors

I hope you heartily enjoy
every minute of your stay,
renewing old friendships,
making new friends and
revisiting the familiar
scenes of former years.

F. JOHN FOLLIS
PULPWOOD
Export and Domestic



THE McCABES
A typical pioneer family.



THE FRED. MULLETT FAMILY

Compliments of
**DILLABOUGH'S
BILLIARDS**

Tobaccos, Smallwares
While in town, drop in.

Hastings St., Bancroft

CANADA PACKERS

Home of
Bancroft Butter

or
Creamery
Phone 73 Hastings St., Bancroft

Compliments of

C. A. EDDY, Phm.B.

The REXALL Store

Bancroft, Ont.

Phone 74



Whatever you're saving for—better save at
The BANK of NOVA SCOTIA!

Bancroft Branch

L. C. Lockhart, Manager

Bancroft Business & Professional Women's Club

On January 11th, 1960, a group of energetic business women met at Bancroft Hotel to form a Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs Marjorie Gordon was elected its first president, with a slate of officers as follows:

1st Vice-President	Mrs. M. Miller	2nd Vice-President	Mrs. K. Genest
Recording Secretary	Mrs. S. Noonan	Corresponding Sec'ty.	Mrs. D. Needham
Treasurer	Mrs. D. Hoffman	Emblem Chairman	Mrs. E. Davidson
Publicity Convenor	Mrs. E. Walker	Membership Convenor	Miss S. Laine
Ways and Means	Mrs. J. Burke	Program Convenor	Mrs. N. Powers

On May 18th the club, with 29 members, was presented with its charter.. While this is one of the younger clubs in the village, it has nevertheless been very active. The aims and objectives of the club are to improve the status of women in all walks of life. Already it has helped by making a donation to World Refugee Year, and by sponsoring a member, Mrs. Audrey Sexsmith, for election to the village council in November, 1960. It was largely through the efforts of the members, in the staging of a motorcade, that she was elected as councillor, for the year 1961.

The club has also established a Student's Assistance Fund, which has now been granted to a deserving student for this year. May the future years to come prove as fruitful as the first one.

Expatriate

Every spring, you hear the voices
Of the lakes and of the hills,
Reaching in through brick and concrete,
Till your heart with longing fills.
Want to trade the clash and clamor
Of the city's dreadful din,
For the still and peaceful country,
And the greetings of your kin.
Way up here, the valleys beckon,
And their calling won't be vain,
For this time, you're really going
To the highlands once again.
Want to watch the red sun rising
'Cross North Hastings lovely dales,
Want to watch the white clouds racing,
Like a ship with snowy sails.
Want to watch the red sun setting
Over lakes so calm and clear,
And to hear the loons acalling,
Sometimes far, and sometimes near.
Bird and beast, and field and flower,
Join together and combine,
Nature's works, the best creation,
Makes our homeland, yours and mine.
Come ye back, and leave the city,
Hot and humid, loud and shrill.
Come back here to coolness, quiet,
Lulled by song of whip-poor-will.
If you do, you won't regret it,
Hear us call, your kith and kin,
Here's the greeting that awaits you,
"Welcome home, come in, come in!"

Pengo, Bancroft



FREE SURPRISE AT
BANCROFT'S NEWEST BUSINESS

Come in and enjoy one of these tasty treats

**SUNDAES • MALTS • SHAKES • CONES • DILLY BARS
DQ SANDWICHES • CURLY TOP CONES • HOME-PAK**

© 1958 Dairy Queen National Development Co.

DAIRY QUEEN



BANCROFT 1900

Waiting for the first train into town.



BUILDING THE CEMENT BRIDGE OVER YORK RIVER

Alex Peever at boiler — Ed Maxwell, foreman

DOCTORS

S. S. Lumb

V. A. Lehinant

O. W. Anderson

H. J. Johnston

*The
Physicians and Surgeons
of Bancroft extend their very best
wishes for a successful and happy*

“Old Home Week”

Sports Through The Years

When the first settlers of the district started their homes in the forest, there was little time for sports. It is true that the rod and gun were always on hand, but these were essential implements, used to augment the family larder with fish and game. There was enough exercise with the shovel, the plow and axe without having to resort to relaxing sport. Probably the first competitions were shooting matches when the contestants would pay a small fee and shoot at a mark, the winner carrying off a goose or other farm fowl. Most of the men organized deer hunts, just as they do now, but with somewhat better luck. And the shantymen resorted to log-rolling, pike-pole vaulting and Indian wrestling.

One of the first "contests" held in the area was a challenge between the men of L'Amable and the men of Bancroft. A certain day was picked, and each community sent the same number of men into the woods on a hunting trip. Each group stayed within its own territory. When the Day was over, all the game shot was brought and counted and the team with the most were the winners. The fruits of the hunt were squirrels, rabbits, ducks, partridge, quail and anything else which might be edible. All the game was cleaned and dressed by the men and divided among the families, for food. Mr. Alfred Barker, who relates this, does not remember which community had the better hunters, but he recalls that there would be two or three barrels of squirrels alone from the contest.

As conditions became more settled, there was suddenly time for a bit of Social Sport, and the youngsters and older folk too, soon were having fun with the ball games, skating, and other types of amusements. Baseball and hockey were the major sports, later on, but the first games played were carryovers from the Homelands. Cricket was a popular game as many of the first citizens were English. There was a lively Cricket League with teams from Fort Stewart, L'Amable, Bird's Creek and Bancroft. Soccer football was a usual game at picnics. Bancroft had a very good lacrosse team and an early account of a game with Madoc is interesting: Frank Towle, George Wease and H. Dobensky were the stars, as Bancroft won 6 - 2.

In the winter there was always a skating rink and nearly all took part. Rinks had been located on the Station pond near the present arena, at the corner of Station and Hastings Streets, and behind and to one side of Hawley's Garage. There were Skating Carnivals each winter with many in costume, with races and fun and a huge bonfire to warm the feet. Winners of a carnival in 1918 were Mrs. D. H. Morrison, Miss Pollock. F. Delyea and G. W. Jones.

Almost every kid in town had a small hand sleigh, and he took advantage of the Bancroft hills for some real downhill rides. Many had a bob-sleigh, made by fastening a wide smooth board to the top of two hand sleighs. Some of the bobs were quite fancy, with racks, steering wheels and even cushions. George Easton had a famous set of "Bobs". He could leave his home on King Street, zip down Bridge and turn down past the Hotel and get off well past Kelusky's Corner on his way to school. At recess the School hill and Rouse's hill were covered with kids and sleighs. The School hill was used exclusively for sleighing and the larger boys would ice the ruts for a longer and faster ride. A boy would be on guard at Hastings Street to warn the riders and when the way was clear, the bob-sleigh would cross on through to the River. The older folk found bob-sledding popular too. A favourite run was down James Street, across the Bridge, past the hotel and on down Hastings. There never was any danger from

cars as what few there were would be up on blocks for the winter. Mr. John Ross, Bank Manager, and Gordon Jones were the first skiers. The hills where the present Curling Club is now located, were popular for toboggans and skis. The kids made their own from long barrel staves. The harness came from leather straps. Another thrill came from home-made snow scooters. A short barrel stave was used, to which a block of wood 15 inches high was nailed. Across the top of the block was fastened a smooth board for a seat, at right angles to the staves. The boy would hold onto the seat at his sides with his hands, place his feet on the stave and a real ride resulted. During one winter, a toboggan slide was made by Mr. Jones, using the high hill south of the Curling Rink for the start. The run was down through the fields past the Hospital. However, it proved to be too dangerous and was abandoned. Some of the kids used to hitch their bobs together and have a wild ride which usually ended in a bad spill. In early days, the young folk would often pile aboard a large log sleigh and careen down Hastings Street completely out of control at times. The older folk would pass away the winter nights playing cards and checkers. Euchre and "500" were the popular card games. In the country, quilting parties were common and gave the ever busy housewives some opportunity to visit their neighbours and still keep on being useful. As softer weather approached, snow ball fights were the thing with the kids. The girls started skipping to their usual singing chants. The first bare patches of earth were the scenes of marble games and as soon as possible the baseball appeared and the summer was at hand. The first thing to do was to go swimming, the boy who had failed to take his dip by Arbor Day was indeed a sissy. The favourite place to swim was the "High Dump" north of the Station, where a bath suit was the garment. Another good spot was the Eddy, near the present Hospital, where bathing suits were worn sometimes. But the summer game was ball and "Two in Cat" was the accepted version, because any number above 5 could play. In time there were more organized ball games, and a separate chapter has been devoted to Sport. The boys played many variations of baseball. One popular one was called "Caps". The kids would line their caps up on the ground, open side up, and then line facing their head-gear. He who was "It" would toss a ball into one of the Caps. Whoever it was, had to snatch the ball out and hurl it at the retreating boys. If he missed, that one was "It". If he missed he was "It" himself. Another game was one where combined hockey, football, wrestling and plain mayhem rolled together. The boys would choose sides and one side had to keep the ball from the other. The name of the game was simply "Keep It" and some wild pileups resulted. The way in which the ball team decided who was first to bat was also somewhat interesting. A bat was used, thrown by the Captain of one team who caught it, with his fist down on the handle. The opposing Captain would then place his fist immediately above the other's and they would go at the bat, fist by fist to the top. The one whose fist was at the top had the honour of having his team bat first. The arguments which resulted when the other Captain claimed spread fingers, etc., were terrible. If a finger or two were above the end of the bat, fist by fist to the top. The one whose fist was at the top had the honour to hammer his fingers once with another bat or stick. What wonderful times they had, with no thought of expensive equipment or regulation playing fields. The older men enjoyed the picnics and fairs held in the district. Running races were popular. Sometimes, three ten-foot planks would be placed end to end and the jumper would have to clear them with three consecutive jumps, without pausing. Then they would try to jump their reach. The high point of their reach would be marked and the contestant would try to hit that mark with his head. The standing broad-jump was also popular. The jumpers would be allowed to hold heavy weights in their hands to give them greater distance with the momentum of their arms when they leaped. There were wrestling matches, which sometimes resulted in real fights, especially when the firewater was present.

Some very strong men were living in this area. They had to be, and some of their feats of strength would make headlines today. There was "One punch" John Plunkett and the Woodcox boys from the Monk. It is related that one time a Salesman for the rubber Boot Company was in town with short samples of his product. The idea was that if anyone could break the tough rubber piece with a single straight pull, a roll of rubbers would be given him. When the Woodcox boys heard of this, they arrived and proceeded to clean the salesman out of his product and give free boots to all residents of the Monk Road.

The boys of the town were keen fishermen and the rapids below always had a good going over for the speckled trout, which abounded there. All they needed was a willow pole and a strong string. They didn't have the modern equipment like they do now, but they got along and had fun, just the same. And any old, patched ball would be sufficient for the game, and any reasonable round stick would do for a bat. And when the first attempts were made by Mr. Ross and Mr. Jones to form a Golf Course, the kids were right in there with them. They found that the roots of the tag-alders were shaped very like a golf club head and the alder stem was cut about the right height for a club. A small sponge ball was ideal and with his improvised outfit, the kids were in business. For hockey, the some alder was used for a stick. Pads were old catalogues wrapped under the stockings and the puck was a chunk of wood.



Top Row: Rev. G. Goodhand, coach; R. Watson, R.F.; E. George, Mgr.; Rev. J. P. Mellor, Coach. Middle Row: H. Dobensky, C.F.; G. W. Jones L.F.; R. G. Jones, 1B.; H. Jarman, 2B.; W. Davy, S.S.; Geo. Twa, 3B.; R. Payne, Sub. Bottom Row: E. King, Capt. and C. K. Watson, Mascot, and Sub.; M. Goodkey, P.

BASEBALL IN BANCROFT

This sport enjoyed tremendous popularity in the district, as it was about the only game played for many years. In the olden days, every picnic had one or two baseball contests. The fierce rivalry between the teams was heightened by the fans and not inconsiderable sums of hard cash sometimes rode on a game. The equipment used was pretty crude as compared to the modern outfits of today. The gloves were small and had very little stuffing as compared with the overpadded protectors of the present teams. The bats were made locally, and the famous "Drummond Drivers" were turned on the lathe in Bancroft and provided many a long homer for the player who was strong enough to swing one. The kids had loosely organized teams and there were usually three teams of boys contesting every Saturday. The Cow Bell Avenue Gang drew its talent from East Bridge St. and was made famous by the Barkers, Stringers, Kavanaghs and Broads. The Piety Hill outfit hailed from across the River and the great Watson family contributed to it, besides the Eastons, Towles and Ruperts. The Turkey Flats team came from the North End of Town and claimed members from the McGhees, Vaders, Walkers, Muffitts and Fishers. The Teams usually kept their members for Hockey as well. All that was needed in those days was an old ball, usually scrounged from the Seniors one bat and enough gloves for a pitcher, catcher and First baseman.

Eventually Junior Bancroft teams played with their ilk from Coe Hill, Detlor, Maynooth and the Fort. In the Senior Division, Bancroft has had some great Ball teams. The 1915 team won the North Hastings League and we are fortunate to have a group picture of them. Shortly after this picture was taken, most of them were engaged in a grimmer struggle "over there". After the War, more organized leagues were formed and the Bancroft 1922 Team was one of the best ever. This team went through the season unbeaten and won the league with a great no hit game over the heavy Fort Stewart batters. There seems to be no picture of the team, but the lineup went something like this:

Catcher: Ran Davey, a skilled receiver who never stopped talking and always walked around the batter after every pitch.

Pitcher: The one and only Ken Watson, this left hander had a blazing fast ball and a wicked drop. His no-hit game against the heavy hitters from Fort Stewart is still considered a baseball classic.

First Base: Bob Colling, this tall baseman with the amazing reach, who could catch the wildest infield throws with ease, is still a legend when old timers talk baseball.

Second Base: Roland Burke, a smooth fielder and a good hitter.

Short Stop: Russ Barker, a fast running fielder, who could handle the tricky Bancroft infield easily.

Third Base and Capt.: Dr. "Der" Rouse. His great speed and hard throw enabled him to cover his position well. He was a daring base runner and was the team's lead-off man.

The Outfield: Joe Rouse, Fred Embury and George Barker. This trio were all good fielders and heavy batters. George was also the Spare Pitcher.

Manager and Coach: Elvan George. His baseball "Know How" was carefully augured to his players and also his fine sense of sportsmanship.

Business Manager and Official Scorer:

The team was feted at a banquet and dance in October and Mr. Walter Wiggins presented Captain Der Rouse with the league Trophy.

As the years went by, baseball continued to thrive until the 1940's when another war and a different attitude caused it to fade in popularity. There were many good baseball players in those days. Perhaps the outstanding athlete was Harry Watson, who was a Star in any Sport. Some great games were played especially against the New Carrolls and Fort Stewart teams, and later the Coe Hill and Maynooth ball players. Such names as the Haryetts, Mackeys, Smalls, Stringers and Wilsons from the Fort, the Kunos and Stewarts from Carlow, Father Brady, the Smiths, Rouses, McAlpines and Greens from Maynooth and the Leals, Wetheralls, Giles, Martins and McTavishes from Coe Hill, all recall some wonderful contests. Players for Bancroft were Roy Reid, Harry Watson, Harold Watson, Gordon Barker, Roy Barker, Les Broad, Jack Kavanagh, Ned Walter, Norm Muffitt, Milt Fisher, Demmy Kavanagh, Art Towle and many, many more, always gave the opposition a real battle. Usually, on July 12th, a game against an outside team was played, more often than not, it would be Barry's Bay, and these were great baseball battles indeed. A famous game which the 1922 team played was against Deloro, which won the O.B.A. title that year. Deloro beat Bancroft, but it was a close game. Joe Rouse hit a ball over the fence for Bancroft, but the Deloro fielder jumped the barrier and turned the ball so fast, it kept Joe from scoring. This play is still talked about, as many still feel that the fielder had an extra ball in his pocket for just such an emergency.

After War No. 2, the game started up again, but fans showed a disappointing difference. Swimming, boating, and other forms of summer amusement caused the game of baseball to fade. There is a revival on now, with the formation of the little League sponsored by the Kinsmen. We hope to see this great game popular once more, with the fans backing their teams like in days gone by.



BANCROFT HOCKEY CHAMPS
1900

Stewart Brown, Hubert Weiss, Frank Towle, Bert Roberts, George Wease, Wm. Istead, Hyman Dobensky, G. Robertson.

HOCKEY IN BANCROFT

This has always been the major sport here. With the river handy for flooding, the rinks in Bancroft have always been close to it. The boys took to the game seriously and were backed up by the fans, who would brave the cold and discomfort to see the games. Up until the mid-thirties, most hockey games had to be played in the day-time, as the lighting for night games was expensive. There was always the danger of storms and many games were "snowed out". Despite the handicaps, the players kept hockey going and took on any opposition which challenged them. In the early days, the teams were of seven players, with no substitutes. H. Dobensky and Frank Towle were the stars. Later on, hockey leagues with Maynooth, Detlor and Coe Hill were started and usually Bancroft had two or more senior teams. One year the Bancroft team called themselves "The Riffraffs" and were led by Harry Watson, Mack McGhee, Jack Kavanagh and Dick Barker. The second Bancroft team were the "Millionaires" and were led by the great Ned Walters, Roy Reid, Albert Warren and Norm Muffitt. The inter-town rivalry was pretty high and some wild games were played. The High School had a team one winter, with Jim Joynt, Keith Sprung, Art Towle, Jim Fraser, Jack Russell, Bill McAlpine and Cyril Munro leading the team.

At least once a winter an exhibition game was played with Madoc and large crowds attended. By this time night games were played and the players provided with a heated shack for intermission.

After War No. 2, the Lions Club of Bancroft undertook the building of a covered rink, and with the help of every fan from far and near, with donated materials, free labour and lots of work, the fine North Hastings Community Centre was opened in 1948. This was a triumph of co-operation of the district and has been a tremendous boon to hockey and skating ever since. The youngsters swarmed to the rink and many Juvenile and Junior Leagues were formed. The Senior team, known as the Pontiacs soon were in the league with Madoc, Marmora, Tweed, Tamworth, Campbellford and many others. And they were winning these games too. Some of the greats of these teams were: Doug Moxam, Joe Kavanagh, Norman Brough, Elwood Brough, Art Young, Bob Maxwell,

Stewart Stringer, Ted Delyea, Ted Maxwell, Harold Watson, Bert Comrie, Howard Vanderveldt, John Pilgrim, and many, many more. The league games were fast and furious. The best opposition was Madoc and the battles between the two teams are still remembered. The night that Bancroft, led by Joe Kavanagh, beat Madoc for the league Playoff Championship was witnessed by over 1,600 fans, almost the total population of the town at that time.

Some great exhibition games were played, particularly against the R.C.A.F. team from Trenton. This game, sponsored by the Legion, was always a hard fought affair, and usually Bancroft won.

There seems to be no diminishing of the support of hockey here. Each Saturday from first ice to final thaw sees hundreds of the smaller players thronging in from the centres nearby, playing Canada's national game under good supervision and ideal conditions.

GOLF

In 1926 a group of citizens formed the first Bancroft Golf and Country Club. It was started by two of the best citizens the town ever had, Gordon Jones and John Ross. An ambitious start was made and by summer time, Bancroft was seeing players in "plus-fours" whacking away at the small white ball over in the Faraday Heights area and where the Curling Club is now located. At one time, it was a flourishing organization with five holes and a good membership. But the upkeep of the course was high and there was not the visiting player business, which was necessary and the club gradually faded out. The executive of the first Golf Club is an example of the sport-minded citizens of the day.

G. W. Jones—President, I. A. Eby—Vice-President, Dr. Embury—Honourary President, John Ross—Secretary-Treasurer, Directors—Rev. N. R. Stout, John Kelusky, Walter Wiggins, Dr. Haryett, Dr. Alexander, Tom McAlpine, Frank Thomson, John LaBarre, Elvan George and James Colling. Dance Committee—Mrs. Embury, Mrs. A. Munro, Mrs. Gladys Kennedy, Amos Hawley, F. Jordon, Alice Mullett, Dr. Rouse, Russ Barkcr, Bob Colling. Play Committee—Mrs. D. Jones, Mrs. Mews, George Thomson, Rev. N. R. Stout, George Brown, Miss V. McCaw and Jack McCaw. Membership Committee—Mrs. Harry McCaw, Miss Kathleen French, Miss Edith Mullett, Miss Dorothy Embury, Miss Margaret McAlpine, Miss L. Jarman and Miss Vera McCaw.

After War No. 2, the golf situation was revived and another group of citizens formed a committee. By 1952 a nine-hole course was layed out and a club was chartered. It is located north of town on the old Kelusky farm and is one of the best nine-hole courses in Ontario. Membership numbers about 80, but the summer visitors and travelling public contribute greatly to its success. Each day in summer, sees many players in action. The club itself has keen competition for the various trophies. Peter Klein has been Club Champ a number of times, and outstanding players are Bob Ramsbottom, Jim Follis, Ken Perram and Dick Roach. Bob Ramsbottom was the first member to par the course and also got the first hole-in-one. This last distinction has been shared by Ardy Eddy, Donald Shaw and Miss Carol Rumble. The club seems to be going along very well and much credit can be given to Whitney Martin who was the influence in getting it started.

SKIING

This fine winter sport never was too popular in the area, despite the wealth of wonderful hills close by. It was fun going down, but a job getting back up. In later years Whitney Martin has installed a ski tow on the golf course and does a fair business on weekends. The North Hastings High School sponsors a ski tournament each winter with slalom, down hill and cross country events. With the public becoming more sports minded and with better accomodation available, Bancroft should shortly become a ski centre.

TENNIS

This game was popular around the turn of the century when there were two or three grass courts in town. One of these was at Jarman's behind the Public School. Another court was made by Miss L. Haase where the Toronto Dominion Bank now stands.

last court in town was situated over at the C.N.R. Station property and a small club maintained it for several years.

BADMINTON

A Badminton Club was formed in 1933 and used the Community Hall twice a week in the winters. It proved a social evening for many, as there wasn't much to do in those depression years. When the new High School was built, the club moved to the large auditorium, with its three courts. It still is a popular game and has a large membership. Champion players have been Kate Joynt, M. Burns, A. Eddy, E. Carswell, P. Klein, Mrs. Hugh Murray and Les Broad.

CROQUET

This game was played by many during the early, early days. A genteel pastime, it gave the young folk a chance for social entertainment. One of the first croquet lawns was situated at the Barker home, where the Hattin Funeral Home is now located. There were strict rules to this game and it was played with intense concentration by the young men and ladies of town and provided many an evenings light excercise for all concerned.

HORSE-SHOE PITCHING

It wouldn't be fair to leave this sport out. This good old game is still popular, although seldom seen in public. But it used to be played on Hastings Street near the Queen's Hotel. Hermon Weirmier, John Kerr, Norman Fisher, Wilbert Kellar, Pete Stringer are remembered as real experts. A pitch used to be located behind Stringer's garage, and with flood-lights, the game would go on and they never counted anything but ringers.

SWIMMING

Most of the people here in Bancroft are swimmers, but the sport as a competitive contest has never caught on. During the 30's an attempt was made for some long-distance races, but the young people seemed content to stay near shore. It used to be the thing to swim across a large lake, Baptiste or Paudash. Two strong long distance swimmers were Gerald Kavanagh and Harry Watson. However, as a sport, swimming does have many followers and its step-child, water skiing is becoming very popular, much to the discomfort of the fishermen.

CURLING

No sport has ever enjoyed such a sudden and enthusiastic following in Bancroft than the roaring game of curling. In 1950 an attempt was made to form a club, using the natural ice at the arena, but the project fell through when it was impossible to obtain curling stones. But with the arrival of the miners from the north in 1956, the necessary cash and incentive were available and in 1957 the Bancroft Curling Club was formed.

With many ardent devotees of the game donating time and money, a very lovely curling building was erected. Artificial ice was used, and the lounge upstairs was attractively furnished, with an observation section, snack bar and comfortable chairs. Downstairs was equipped with about 100 lockers, another snack bar and recreation facilities. With four sheets of ice, the sport of curling got off to a flying start and has kept going ever since. Most of the credit for its success goes to Faraday Uranium Mine and its staff. This institution has done much for Bancroft and the curling club is only one example.

The club has about 200 members, including an active ladies' section. With the experienced curlers from the mines acting as instructors, many of the Bancroft men took up the game and the club is now well established. There are four to five draws each year and the open bonspiel is the highlight of the curling season, with upwards of 48 rinks taking part. The bonspiel is noted far and wide and about 36 of the rinks are from out of town. There are many other events, among them being the Mixed Open Bonspiel, the Sadie Hawkins Tournament and the School Boy Bonspiel. Some of the skips and those who did so much to get the game established are. Del Wilson, Jack Follis, Paul Fulkerson, Bill Scott, Sam Rowsell, Pete McLean, Bill Hainsworth, Harold Petch, Ted Stone, Ed. Arbic, Dick Roach, Ernie McCrank, Lloyd Helm and many more. Bill Mountney is the caretaker and rink manager and does a wonderful job in keeping good ice, the place spotless, and everyone happy.



OXEN AND COWBOYS ON HASTINGS STREET



THE BOYS BRIGADE

"To Bruce"

Old Bruce is gone, his soul passed on,
We'll miss his cheerful way;
Along his beat, each one he'd greet,
"Good day, good day, good day!"

Rain, snow or hail, he'd never fail
To give his cheery call;
To those he knew, and strangers too,
"Good day, good day" to all.

Now Bruce worked long, for he was strong,
Though he was past fourscore;
He did his share, and was no care,
He never asked for more.

St. Peter can use this man
Beside the Pearly Way,
To greet each soul that nears its goal,
"Good day, good day, good day!"

Pengo, Bancroft

The Bancroft Times, August 11th, 1960.



The history of local 1006, BANCROFT MINE MILL WORKERS UNION, dates back to February 1957 when the employees of Faraday Uranium Mines Ltd. by secret ballot vote chose this Union as their Bargaining Agent.

Also since 1957 and right through until end of operations at Greyhawk Mines Local 1006 represented the workers at that plant.

Over the years the members have come to appreciate the Union's every day service as well as the benefits of a Collective Bargaining Agreement featuring a savings plan which shall become the starting fund of a pension plan in the event that the prospect of closedown is removed.

Item appearing in The Times of February 22nd, 1917.

Comments on the Current Female Fashions

"Time to Pass the Apples Again"

When every pool in Eden was a mirror,
That unto Eve her dainty charms proclaimed
She went undraped without a single fear or
Thought that she might need to be ashamed.

'Twas only when she had eaten of the apples
That she became indeed to be a prude
And found that ever more she had to grapple
With the much debated problem of the nude.

Thereafter she devoted her attention
Her time and all her money to her clothes,
And that was the beginning of Convention
And Modesty as well, I would suppose.

Reactions come about in fashions recent
Now girls conceal so little from the men,
It does seem, in the name of all that's decent,
Someone ought to pass the apples round again.

Hawley's Garage Ltd.

Mercury - Meteor - Comet



CARS AND TRUCKS — PARTS AND ACCESSORIES
GENERAL REPAIRS — EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE
IMPERIAL PRODUCTS, GOODYEAR TIRES, USED CARS



Phone 135

Bancroft, Ont.

J. J. Bronson & Son

INSURANCE AGENCY

Allan E. Bronson, Mgr.

—

Phone 54

Bancroft, Ont.

Box 550

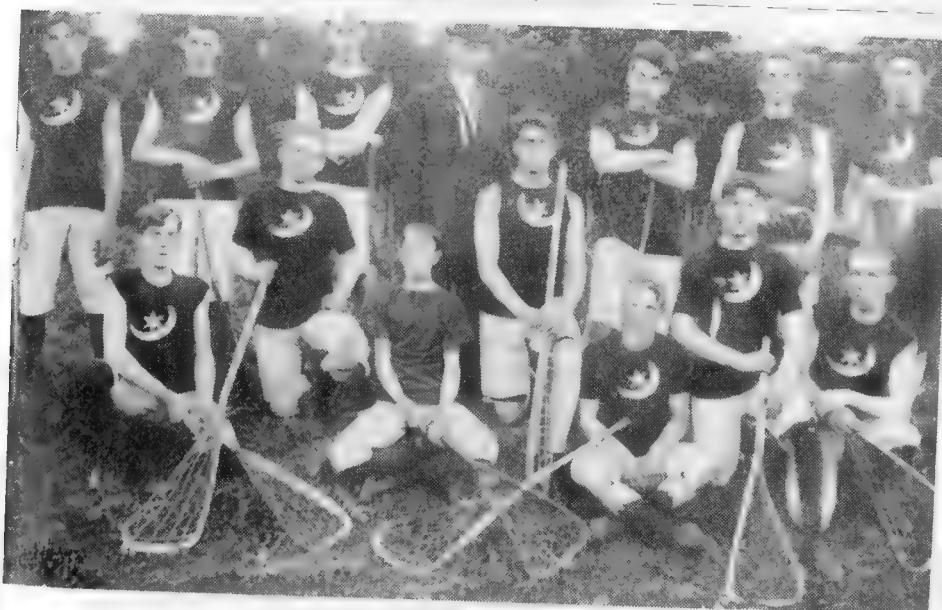
Story from the Bancroft Times

October 6th, 1961

On Friday morning last, just before the first peek of dawn, Peter and Johnathan MacDonald, of Monteagle, accompanied by Dr. Embury, the Reeve of Bancroft, were returning to town from a sick call, when three miles from Bird's Creek they saw a giant bull moose up the road a few feet ahead of their car. The huge monster became confused at the headlights of the car and rushed down the road at a great pace. Mr. MacDonald put on full speed ahead and the animal, never leaving the road, proceeded to demonstrate that the horseless carriage wasn't the fastest thing on the go, as yet, and for a distance of three miles a most exciting race as has ever been witnessed took place. Just before emerging from the woods at Bird's Creek, the moose finally turned and stumbled headlong down the bank. Peter MacDonald, one of the strongest men in North Hastings, was out of the car in a flash. He jumped on top of the huge animal and suddenly noticed it was not dead, but merely stunned. He called for Dr. Embury to come with his scalpel and administer the coup de grace.

The moose-meat loving doctor, had his scalpel out when he suddenly paused. The thought of the consequences of the dignified Reeve of Bancroft, and a law-abiding physician as well, being found with illegal moose meat and without a licence too, crossed his mind. And that short hesitation proved the hunters' undoing. The mighty moose came to its senses suddenly, and with a single heave of its shoulders, threw Peter MacDonald some distance off its back. It regained its feet, shook itself, and then went charging into the bush.

The three would-be moose hunters gathered themselves together, brushed their clothing and proceeded slowly and quietly into Bancroft, just as rosy fingered dawn bloomed over the sleeping village.



BANCROFT LACROSSE TEAM

1905

Back Row: C. O. Fuller, Elwood Cleak, Bill Istead, Dr. McLean, Ernie George, George Wease, Hymon Dobensky. Front Row: Ernie Davy, H. Weiss, McGillvary Haryett, J. S. P. Thompson, Clinton Wease, Frank Towle, G. Robertson.

Compliments Of

Michael J. McAlpine

Professional Engineer (civil)
Ontario Land Surveyor

Bridge St. W.
Bancroft, Ont.

Phones: Office 27
Res. 28

ERNIE BISSON ELECTRIC

Phone 521-J1, Box 652
Bancroft, Ont.

Residential, Commercial and
Industrial Wiring.

Decorative Lighting Fixtures.

Maintenance & Repairs to Electrical
Motors, Ranges, Dryers, Heating
Systems and Small Appliances.

also

Dodd & Struthers Lighting Systems
1 year guarantee on all installations

C. E. Plumley

Groceries
Dry Goods
Flour and Feed



Phone 48
Bancroft, Ont. Hastings St.

Best Wishes

for

Old Home Week

RON KELUSKEY

Texaco Products
Furnace Oil — Stove Oil



Phone 558 Bancroft



Department of Lands and Forests

The Department first established a headquarters and erected a small building in Bancroft in 1922, which was known as the Bancroft Deputy Chief Ranger Office. From 1922 to 1925 the deputy chief rangers were: R. Kennedy, Alf. Burns and John D. Wilson. In 1926 the Bancroft Chief Ranger Division was established with the following Chief Rangers in charge from then to 1961: George G. Hass, M. J. Brough, William Stringer, Earl Goodman, M. Wilson and Orval Goodman.

The present warehouse was built in 1931 with timbers from the old Bruton Farm headquarters; a new office erected in 1938 and a workshop in 1951. The Bancroft steel fire tower was put up in 1938. It was first located near the edge of the Eagles Nest, but was later moved back about one mile to give a better coverage. Melville Moore has carried out the duties of the tower observer since that time.

A large fire occurred at Watt's Lake, Hershel township in August 1925, caused by a neglected camp fire on the lake shore. In May of 1931, under abnormally high hazardous conditions, two fires threatened the village of Bancroft, one north and one south of the town. All available man power including students at the High School, was used to fight the fires. At one time, about 22 separate fires were burning in the Bancroft district. A heavy rainstorm occurred during the evening and the situation was saved. Since then, there have been no serious fires in the area. The Lands and Forests office maintain a constant vigil from several fire towers and with rapid communication and radio-equipped units, have been able to keep any outbreaks under control. While this has meant that the berry patches suffered, it also means millions of dollars saved in timber and property. The personnel of the Lands and Forests have been active in promoting reforestation, restocking of lakes, control of hunting and fishing, and of late have been opening and developing camp sites for the travelling summer vacationists. The intensive campaigns of fire prevention which they have conducted have indeed paid off handsomely for all concerned.



1951 CHAMPION HOCKEY TEAM

Bancroft Lumber Limited

ARMSTRONG TILES

MARTIN - SENOUR PAINTS

P-V PLYWOOD

AMEROCK HARDWARE

MOULDINGS

BERRY OVERHEAD DOORS

LUMBER

Bring your Building Problems to us

ONE STOP SERVICE

Box 280

Phone 510

Bancroft, Ontario

OSMOSE PRESSURE TREATED WOOD PRODUCTS (Ontario) LTD.

Here's the time-proven protection you can stake your reputation on



Clean

Paintable

Fire Retardant

ROT-RESISTANT LUMBER

Wherever lumber is subject to decay.

Specify "OSMOSE" PRESSURE TREATED

Phone 510

Bancroft, Ontario

Box 280

The Railways

One of the problems which confronted the early settlers was that of transportation. The original Hastings Road was one of the toughest thoroughfares ever built and getting supplies over its rocks and bumps and hills was no small task. Wagons were the freight cars of those days, and their limited capacity curtailed their usefulness. Many people would walk from York River to Madoc.

However, as the country became more populated, with lumbering a going concern, and the possibilities of mining booms in the offing, a railway was established from Picton, through Trenton to Ormsby and Coe Hill in the 1890's. Ormsby was the jumping off place then, for the residents of the north. The community there was a busy one, with two hotels, several stores and residents, busily catering to the travelling public. But as more and more people came, the C.O.R. pushed north to Bancroft, and Ormsby became a ghost town. The arrival of the first train into Bancroft, was a momentous event. A picture is shown of the crowd awaiting the first train in the summer of 1900. The coming of the steel horse meant the opening of this district, with fast and efficient travel and communication to outside points. As the main roads remained in a terrible condition, the railway really was the cause of putting Bancroft on the map.

Over to the west, the famous Charles J. Pusey, with his shiny top hat, was writing railroad history by building the I.B. & O. over terrain which would be considered impossible by any sane railway survey superintendent. This wildcat railway was as far east as Mud Creek by 1896, and an ad in The Bancroft Times of that year urges people to take the "good" road from Bancroft to Baptiste and enjoy a speedy, safe trip to Lindsay and Toronto. The train left Baptiste at 4:30 a.m. and arrived in Lindsay at 9:05. Any who made the trip will never forget it. About the year 1903, the I.B. & O. finally pushed its way to join the C.O.R. at the "Y" two miles north of town. The latter extended far past Maynooth and almost to Whitney.

For many years the railroads gave efficient service to the district. The shrill whistle of the trains as they chuffed into town and the clangor of their shunting will recall many memories amongst old timers. Many horses were terrified by the approach of the engines and some run-aways resulted. The trains provided safe journeys and good express service for all, and up until 1936 carried the mails. They were eventually taken over by the C.N.R. and the line from Trenton north, still operates. But the old steam engines have been replaced with the more quiet and efficient Diesels. The great I.B. & O. passed out of the picture in 1960, but will never be forgotten. Mr. Frank Askey, who spent all his railroad life on the I.B. & O., can recall many wonderful incidents which happened on the line. The grade from Baptiste to Highland Grove, along the shores of the lake, is the steepest and longest grade in Canada, east of the Rockies. With large loads, it was necessary to cut the train in two at the end of Baptiste, in order to get over the top of the grade. Mr. Askey recalls the day that the passenger coach and another car was left for this purpose while the engine took the rest of the train up to the top. The two cars broke away and careened down the grade at a terrific speed. The Section Gang had just jacked up the tracks behind the train to replace some ties, when they saw the two runaway cars coming toward them. Working like lightning, the men managed to get the track down into place just in time. The passenger coach hit the gondola which had the ties on, and smashed it into the lake with the section men scattering in front. By some real luck, the runaway cars stayed on the track and careened down the grade past Baptiste and finally was stopped by the grade on the other end of the lake. Present in the passenger car at the time were many people, among them being Dr. Beeman, and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McGillivray Sr. The conductor was Herb Card, who prevented some of the passengers from jumping off. Mr. Tom Peever is credited with un-jacking the tracks on that exciting day.

And so, the railway has indeed help write a colourful story in the area. Many of the Agents were prominent in the community. Among them there have been Mr. John Collins, Ernie Chase, Herb Smith, John Joynt, Herman Snider, Floyd Thomas, Herb Cooper and the present Agent is Phil Stroh.

Ron Plumley

Self Serve

Groceteria



We Deliver

Phone 34

Bancroft

Welcome Back
to Bancroft for
"Old Home Week"

FOWLER COACH LINES

Chartered Coaches
for all occasions



Information

call Bancroft 517 J 2

GERALD O'SHAUGHNESSY LTD.

General Contractor

ROAD & BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Equipment Rental

Hastings St.

Telephone:

OFFICE 29

Bancroft, Ont.

RES. 46-W

The Healers of the Sick

Many of the pioneers of North Hastings were ill prepared, physically, for the rigours and hardships of their new life. Those who had come directly from the Old Country were easy prey to the diseases and sickness of a new environment. The extremes of heat and cold, the millions of black flies and mosquitoes, inadequate clothing, lack of proper diet and the exhausting work caused the breakdown of health in many. And at first there were no doctors or nurses available. Many pioneer mothers gave birth to their first children with only the help of a neighbour's wife, or their own husbands. And these attendants were unable to cope with the complications which sometimes arose. It is recalled how two young women of the district were married the same day and lived as neighbours. Each gave birth to their first child the same day and all four were called by God the next day, while their husbands stood by, unable to help or ease their final suffering. There were not a few tragedies as these and when an outbreak of disease became rampant, the people could only do their best by whatever means they had at their disposal.

A wonderful woman from the Turriff area, Mrs. Stewart Anderson, was one of the unsung heroines of the times, with her works of charity and kindness when sickness struck. Although she had no knowledge, at first, of nursing, or medicine, she always came to help the sick. She delivered many babies and helped the new mothers. When an outbreak of diphtheria ravaged the country, she spent all her time looking after the afflicted. This was about 1883 and in a very short time then, 15 children died from the dread disease. Mrs. Anderson went from house to house, doing her best for the small patients, unfearful of getting the germs herself. And when death claimed any of the small victims, she looked after everything, conducting the services and interring the small bodies herself, in an effort to keep the disease from spreading. She is an example of the ways in which the pioneer women helped each other in time of trial and sorrow.

The first doctor to come to Bancroft was Dr. Hunt, who used to travel through the area at regular intervals, looking after the sick. He is buried in the local Anglican Cemetery, having died in Bancroft about 1888.

Dr. T. I. Beeman was the first permanent doctor, who came to Bancroft in 1888. Here was the true country doctor, beloved by everyone and always willing to help the ill anywhere, sacrificing personal comfort and safety to do so. Dr. Beeman stayed here many years. As he grew older his own health failed, yet he continued to practice his dedicated work. One winter's night, in 1922, during a severe storm, he was called to go to Paudash district. Despite the fact that the weather had turned even worse, Dr. Beeman hitched up his cutter and set off. The horse became bogged down in the snow and Dr. Beeman tried for several hours to get the animal free. As he could not, he was forced to crawl for a great distance to the nearest farm, in order to get help. The exhausting night with so much exposure to the piercing cold, was too much for this good man. He developed pneumonia which caused his death a few days later. His funeral was the largest ever seen in Bancroft. The minister used as his text: St. Luke 23 - 35, "He Saved Others; Himself He Could Not Save."

Dr. Charles Knox started practice in Bird's Creek in 1896. He was direct from England and had an impressive list of qualifications. Among them were: Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England; House Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary; Surgeon to the Birkenhead Eye and Ear Infirmary; Medical Examiner to the Pilots of the Port of Liverpool, etc., etc. Dr. Knox first lived at Bird's Creek, later in Bancroft.

Dr. Green was in Bancroft for a short time about 1898. Dr. Leavitt, a graduate of Queen's, came here about the same time as Dr. Green. He practiced many years and served a term as reeve of Bancroft. Dr. James Saeger, another Queen's man, also practiced here in 1899. Dr. Alexander T. Embury opened an office in the Bancroft Drug Store about 1903, in partnership with Mr. Frank Humphries, a pharmacist. Dr. Embury Warden of Hastings County. In 1925, he was elected as Federal Member to the House of Commons, Ottawa, and kept that responsible position for ten years. He was keenly

Greetings
&
Good Wishes
for a bang up home coming

Pat Malloy

Local & Long Distance
Hauling
Phone Bancroft 235W

Compliments of
The TREASURE SHOP

Films Gifts Baby Wear
Novelties Souveniers

Hastings St., Bancroft Phone 289W

Compliments of
Rouse's
LADIES' WEAR

Hastings St., Bancroft
Box 447

Compliments of
Kingan Hardware Co.
Limited

167 - 171 Simcoe St.

Peterborough, Ont.

Peterborough's Leading Hardware

Serving Peterborough and District Since 1852

interested in sports and welfare work, and was one of the leading influences in getting the Red Cross Hospital built in Bancroft. Dr. Haight practiced in Bancroft for a short time after the First World War. Dr. W. P. J. Alexander practiced in Bancroft from about 1925, for 6 years. He used one of the first snow-mobiles seen here, when the two front wheels of his car were removed and replaced by wide, short skis. Dr. Rae Weese has been the only lady doctor to practice in town. She came here about 1932 and remained for about 5 years. Dr. Bernard Baruch, an English medical student, came to Canada in 1944 and finished his studies at Queens. He practiced with Doctor Lumb for a short while in 1945, before returning to England. Dr. Reminger assisted Dr. Lumb for about one year shortly after the war. He then moved to Hamilton. Dr. M. L. Mador, also practiced in Bancroft from about 1950 - 52. He is now in Sudbury.

Bancroft is fortunate in having four doctors practicing medicine in 1961. Dr. Stead S. Lumb, another Queen's graduate, came here in 1926. He had served overseas in World War 1, having received his commission in the Medical Corps. He was Reeve of Bancroft for several years, and was Warden of the county. His office is on Hastings Street South. Dr. Oswald W. Andersen is an infantry veteran of the First World War. He graduated from University of Toronto and took up the practice of his profession in Coe Hill, Whitney, New York and Maynooth, finally coming to Bancroft in 1935. His office is on Sherbourne Street. Dr. Volkar Lehinant received his Medical Degree from Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1939. After coming to Canada, he spent two years at Peterborough Civic Hospital. He settled in Bancroft in 1953 and his office is on Hastings Street South. Dr. Hugh Johnson served in the Artillery in World War Two. He graduated from Medicine at the University of Toronto and interned in Peterborough. He came to Bancroft in 1953 and his office is in the old Kavanagh home, at the corner of Hastings and Bridge Streets.

Mention should be made of Dr. John Hardinge, a widely known doctor from Coe Hill. Here was a very clever man with many qualifications and degrees from England. He was a personal friend of the Royal Family of those days. When he came to Canada, he did not take out the necessary papers for him to practice medicine, and so remained without a licence. Yet he used his skill and knowledge to the great benefit of many people. His death not too long ago, was regretted by all.



THE BANCROFT HOTEL SHOWING THE "STAGE COACH"



VADER'S
RIVERSIDE
MOTEL
CABINS

D.A.A. Recommended
All Modern Conveniences

Highway 62
Phone 205W

Bancroft, Ont.
P.O. Box 83

CANADA PACKERS

Shur-Gain

Feeds and Fertilizers



Feed Mill

Phone 173 — Bancroft, Ont.

Compliments
of
Shamrock Restaurant
Bancroft

Sherk's Restaurant
Purdy

Allan J. Doney *C.L.U.*

The Great-West Life Assurance Co.

Office: RI 5-8777
Res: RI 2-4609

255½ George St. N.
Peterborough, Ont.

Bancroft Custom Woollen Mills

Established in 1885

manufacturers of

Pure Wool Yarns—fine & heavy

Wool Batts & Blankets

We have a full line of:

Hudson Bay — Kenwood

Ottawa Valley and Homespun Blankets

Nylon — Nylon Reinforced and Wheeling Yarns

"Highest cash or trade prices paid for washed or unwashed wool."

GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSE NO. 27

Box 579
Mill Street

Bancroft, Ontario
Phone 120



Bancroft Continuation & North Hastings High

When the new public school was being built in the spring of 1914, some irate citizens of Bancroft objected to the including of two rooms at the back for the purpose of higher education. But they were overruled and so the Bancroft Continuation School had its humble beginning when the new building was opened that fall. It provided students with four more years of schooling. First, second and two years of third form. The first principal was Mr. E. J. Keenan and his assistant was Jean Reid. The first year's enrollment totalled 12. Most parents of those days thought what was good enough for them, was good enough for the kids, and so a public school education was deemed quite sufficient, without the fancy subjects of Algebra, Physiography, Latin, French and Geometry. And so for many years, the final Entrance Examination, successful or not, was the limit of education for many boys and girls of the area. But more and more pupils availed themselves of the Continuation facilities and many graduated after passing the final Third Form examinations and obtained the coveted Junior Matriculation certificate, which was becoming more important as a qualification for obtaining a position. The big stumbling block was the fifth year, or Form Four, which was needed for college entrance. A few local students took this obstacle by going to High Schools in Madoc, Toronto, etc., but the problems of finance, accommodation and home-sickness were formidable. As the population grew in North Hastings the pressing need for a District High School, providing all the education before college, became more apparent. The absolute necessity of Senior Matriculation at least, for the youth embarking on a career at last prompted many fine citizens, working with the teachers and officials of the Department of Education, to form a High School District Board.

This happy event occurred during the last year of World War 2, and no time was lost in getting into action. An ambitious programme of building a really fine school, independent of the public, was started. Even before the ground was broken for its construction, the Board was in action and by using Church basements, rooms in the Community Hall, in the Hotel and in the Public School, the new era of High School Education for Bancroft was an actual fact. The first staff consisted of: Mr. Ritchie Robinson, Principal; Mr. Fred Meek, Mr. Wm. Morrison, Miss Margaret Mitchell and Miss Mary E. Smith. These were hectic days, with teachers and pupils alike hurrying through town to class assignments.

The year was 1946 and by 1947 the construction of the new school was well under way. Just as the final semester ended, the building was officially opened and the North Hastings High School was a going concern. The district covered was all of North Hastings plus Combermere and Cardiff areas. The first enrollment was about 200. As the population boom, caused by the mines, crammed the new school with students, more and more teachers were obtained and more and more rooms added. Many students with the fine equipment provided and the excellent teaching staff, have hurled the bothersome Grade 13 as the Fourth Form is now called, and have gone on through college and are now in various professional careers. The school has indeed come a long way since its small beginning, 47 years ago. The Roll of the Continuation School, Bancroft, in 1920: E. Liddle, A. Plumley, Gladys Reynolds, Randall Davy, M. Phillips, R. Robinson, Dorothy

JOHN F. REID

Real Estate Broker

*Residential - Commercial
and Farm Properties*

Bancroft, Ontario

Phone 148-J

A LOT OF WATER HAS GONE OVER THE DAM SINCE YOU HAVE
BEEN BACK HOME:

WHEN YOU COME BACK HOME THIS YEAR, AUGUST 6, 7, 8, and 9th, 1961,
YOU WILL SAY, WITHOUT RESERVE, "MY HOW YOU HAVE GROWN"

Bancroft is now known as the town that has everything; And how we have grown!

We do not want to brag but we have:

Almost Three Thousand population
Two active Uranium Mines
Twenty-nine room High School
Seventeen room Public School
Separate School
Bowling Alley, Curling Rink
Regulation size 70 acre Golf Course 37 Par.
New and Modernized Churches
Twenty-two bed hospital and four doctors
More Barbers and Beauty Parlours
More Building Contractors and Tradesmen
Shopping Centre with 70 car parking

RIVER BEND MOTELS LTD., CABINS, CABIN TRAILERS & TENTING PARK
CUBE ICE IN BAGS, ESSO GAS AND GOLF PRO SHOPPE

We hope you have a roaring good time at our "Old Home Week"

RIVER BEND MOTELS LIMITED

York River Heights

Bancroft North, Ontario

Embry, Curtis Jones, A. Haryett, R. Jenkins, L. Tivy, R. Barker, A. Fraser, I. Campsall, J. S. Rouse.

Here is a list of the principals and teachers since then. Principals: E. J. Keenan 1914; Thornton Prosser, 1921; Earl Spinks, 1922; Miss Mary Lehane, 1923; Mrs. Edna Mew, 1925; Russell Barker, 1926; Miss E. L. Andrews, 1927; Miss Hazel Gregg, 1928; Wm. Harrington, 1929; Luther Hart, 1931; Miss Gladys Haviland, 1932; C. C. Trott, 1936; Wm. A. Morrison, 1937; Ritchie Robinson, 1946; Gordon Wragg, 1952; Warren Watt, 1959. Assistants and Staff: Jean Reid, 1914; Stella Gilham, 1918; Jessie McDonald, 1919; Clare Brown, 1921; B. Eakins, 1922; Cora Jarvis, 1923; Miss McKim, 1924; Miss M. B. Jackson, 1926; Lyall Davy, 1927; Miss Trula Mason, 1930; Miss Luella Reid, 1931; Reg. Cousins, 1932; Hugh McCullough and David Smith, 1935; Miss E. M. Byers, 1936; Miss P. Johnson, 1940; Mr. W. Luscombe, 1943; Miss G. Martineau, 1944. Among the many teachers who have instructed in the new High School building have been: J. L. Field, A. E. Wright, L. A. Davidson, Mrs. C. Flagler, Miss J. Sheppard, Charles Montruel, Otto Zirke, D. Scovell, Mrs. G. Walks, C. Hodgson, Mrs. W. Tate, Mrs. E. L. McColl, Miss Jessie Sheppard, Margaret M. Davis, Elizabeth M. Arthur, Elizabeth Pearson, Alice Bould, Elizabeth Lowden, Louise Bonson, Robert Calhoun, Ernest Dixon, Catherine J. Gillespie, John Stuckey, Marjorie Coates, W. W. Ewald, Mary Hodgson, Ralph Pyle, Eric Sandilands, F. Showler, Mrs. E. Bleeker, Ward Agnew, Mrs. M. Reber, Mrs. Anne Wragg, Anthony Zettler, Jessie Marriner, Delbert McQuaid, Eric Shimerl, George Ingham, Mrs. Edna Laundry, Barbara Morwick, John Russell, Patricia Deibel, Sally Reynolds, Stephanie Andry.

Today, the staff numbers 29. The building is an imposing one and its campus includes all of the old agricultural grounds. The large student body now numbers over 600. More and more rooms have been added and provided more and more opportunities for the students. There is noted an increasing interest in vocational studies and another shop room is being built. It is also encouraging to note the growing number of students tackling Grade 13, with ambitions for college, and a professional career. The High School caters to many varied extra-curricular activities. Its band has become famous and the successes of its Glee Club and Little Theatre have been prominent. Indeed, the old Garnet and Grey has come a long way from its humble beginning, 47 years ago.

The present staff in 1961: Principal, Warren W. Watt; Vice-Principal, Fred S. Beckly; teaching staff: Donald McClure, George McElvey, Ray Sadler, Ernest Carswell, Harold Petch, William Morrison, Wm. Tate, Miss E. Baskin, Miss P. M. Guy, Miss B. Braden, Miss R. Boehm, Miss N. Lees, Miss V. Connor, Miss N. Haywood, Mrs. V. Crouse, Miss M. Wright, W. E. Whitehead, G. W. Wallace, R. Pierce, R. Turner, A. S. Tennant, W. T. Hamilton, R. Calich, J. O'Brien, R. Kaehler, D. Baldock and R. Noonan.

Honour Students since 1948: M. Burlanyette, 1948-49; A. M. Palmateer, 1949-50; Paul Kavanagh, 1950-51; Shirley Creighton, 1951-52; Fred Ayers, 1952-53; June Keller, 1953-54; Susan Gordon, 1954-55; Gail Inwood, 1955-56; T. R. Sprackett, 1956-57; Jean Hattie, 1957-58; Ruth Best, 1958-59; Christina Esford, 1959-60.

First North Hastings District High School Board, 1947: J. L. Churher, Chairman; Guy Bently, N. Whitmore, Dr. D. M. Rouse, G. Wilson, W. Crozier, E. Laundry, D. C. Wiggins, L. Hook, Wm. McCaw, C. Hinze, R. J. Wood, R. W. Hillis, Secretary Treasurer; and H. H. Loucks, Inspector.

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1925

Just about two years ago quite a sensation was aroused in the Fort Stewart district at the appearance of some kind of reptile. At that time this was thought to have been a crocodile. The mysterious animal has again made its appearance and tracked for a distance of over two miles, travelling the main road this distance before taking to the woods leading to the shores of Fraser Lake. The track of this animal measures over seven feet in length and from its appearance and movement in the sand it would indicate that the animal is an alligator. A posse of six men followed the track until they lost it when it took to the woods near Fraser Lake. It will be remembered that this mysterious animal made an attack on a little Boulter girl, but she was fortunate in making her escape. Several residents in the district are contemplating a hunt for this reptile in the vicinity of Fraser Lake.

Best Wishes
to
BANCROFT
on their

"Old Home Week"

BANCROFT FUELS

MATHER'S RESTAURANT

Home Cooked Meals and Pies
Light Lunches

Phone 148W — Bancroft, Ont.

Compliments of

Bancroft Garage
Pontiac - Buick

Hastings St. C. H. Broad

Birch Cliff Lodge

Baptiste Lake Ontario
9 miles from Bancroft, turn left off Highway 62 at Bird's Creek

Sleeping cabins and rooms, dining hall and snack bar
Boats and motors for rent, sight seeing cruise daily

Art Nicoll

Phone 827-R-13

O'SHAUGHNESSY LIMITED INSURANCE

"Your Local Agents"

Phones: Bus. 10
Res. 150

Box 670

Bancroft, Ont.

"Is Politics the madness of many for the gain of a Few?"

When the Indians of North Hastings gave up their claims to their hunting grounds, they were moved to the reservation at Goiden Lake. One man refused to go and that was John Baptiste, the chief of the tribe living along the lake of the same name. When he refused to move, he was informed that he could stay but would have to pay taxes, just like the white man. But the chief was quick to point out that he was also entitled to vote, and that was one of the reasons he was staying. When an election came up soon afterwards, Chief Baptiste solemnly gathered his family together and marked a large 'X' on a paper. This 'vote' he kept for a long time, awaiting some one to come and get it. It is sincerely hoped that this was done because Chief John Baptite was a fine man and his vote was as good as any other mans.

In the very early days, voting was public, there being no such thing as a secret ballot. Men usually gathered at a hall at an appointed time and signified their intensions by raising their hands to vote. This took some courage, as the contestants were usually neighbours and were always present to see who did or did not support them. The secret ballot and their ballot box came as a great relief for many citizens. But even then there was trouble. It seems that a quantity of ballot boxes were imported into Canada from the U.S.A. marked 'Bee-hives.' These boxes were ingenious as the returning officer could manipulate a lever and direct a 'bad' vote into a secret compartment, and substitute a previously prepared 'good' vote in its place. Happily, the miscreants were found out before any damage was done.

In the early days a man was known for his politics. There was no fence-sitters as we have them now, and the party line was supported without too much weighing of the individual abilities of the contestants. North Hastings has been traditionally Conservative, with only two Federal members and one provincial member being a Liberal. The C.C.F. and other parties have never been popular and any candidates who ran under their banners have been soundly beaten.

One of the outstanding men in political life of this district was Bancroft's own Dr. Alex T. Embury. A soft spoken man, dedicated to his work, he had a host of friends throughout the country. His kindly demeanor endeared him to all and he had an enthusiastic following when he was chosen at a Conservative rally at Marmora on June 25th, 1925, as their candidate for the newly formed riding of Hastings - Peterborough. His popularity was so great that the Liberals could not find anyone to oppose him. He did have opposition in the person of Mr. G. A. Brethen, who ran as an Independent in the election of November 5th of the same year. Dr. Embury defeated his opponent by a large majority of 2,800. He served the people of his riding well for 10 years. As their representative in the Federal House in Ottawa, Dr. Embury worked diligently in the interests of all, no matter what their political beliefs were. No one who appealed to him was turned down, and he did his very best for his riding. In the Federal election of 1935, Dr. Embury faced a double-barrelled opposition in the persons of Rork Ferguson, the Liberal candidate and Judson Gunter, another Bancroftian, who ran under the Reconstruction banner. The final result showed Mr. Ferguson winning by 5,691 votes, as against Dr. Embury's 4,619 and Mr. Gunter's 2,552. After this election, Dr. Embury lived in retirement for many years in Ottawa. He often visited his friends in



DR. ALEX T. EMBURY, M.P.

Compliments Of
Templer Flower Shop
 Wm. G. Rowland
 Belleville, Ontario
 and our local agent
Ethel Blatherwick
 Phone 38 Bancroft, Ont.

MARK TRIPP LTD.

TRENTON, ONT.
 Established 1879
 Serving North Hastings Since 1930

Service Is Our Motto

CECIL E. WHITE TRANSPORT

Specializing In
 Tractor Trailer Full Load Hauls—P.C.V. Class CDF

Bancroft

Phone 61

Mitchel Bros.

Groceries and
 Dry Goods

Flour, Feed and
 Hardware

Bancroft, Ontario

Phone 7-R-2

Emerson Jenkin's Garage

Texaco Products
 Licensed Mechanic
 General repairs to all makes
 of cars.

Bird's Creek

Phone Bancroft 37

Bancroft and when he passed away, he was buried in the local Anglican Cemetery beside his wife, the former Hester Jarman.

The riding of North Hastings has been bandied about now being coupled with Peterborough, again being a separate electoral district, and is presently known as part of the Hastings - Frontenac riding.

One of its great members has been the late Dr. Sydney Smith, the Secretary of State in the Diefenbaker cabinet. Dr. Smith took the riding from a long term member, George White who was appointed to the Senate of Canada. Dr. Smith was just coming into his own when death overtook him, and Hastings County as well as all of Canada lost a valuable man.

The present member in the Federal House is Mr. Rod Webb of Norwood. Over in the Provincial house, the county is divided up the middle, and Mr. E. Sandercock is the sitting member for Hastings West. Mr. Clark T. Rollins, almost a local man, but hailing from Coe Hill, is the member for Hastings East.

Perhaps one of the bitterest election fights was held in East Hastings in 1935, when the Mitchell Hepburn Liberal government took advantage of a by-election there, to test the controversial Separate School Act. The result saw a religious battle, where propaganda and wild rumour took the place of common sense. The Liberals were soundly beaten and the Act was repealed in Toronto, and the citizens of this area settled down to be friends with each other once more.

Two other local elections caused hard feelings in town. These were the two 'beer parlour' contests, in which the 'wets' and the 'drys' fought it out. The 'drys' had to get 60% to win and the first battle in 1936 saw them fail by a whisker. In the return bout in 1939, the 'drys' pulled an upset again by an even closer whisker, and the beer parlours in the two hotels closed a few months later.

There have been many good men take an active part in politics in Bancroft. This sort of action requires courage and the interest they have shown proves them to be good citizens. And their political doings have never interfered with their friendship with those belonging to the other party, which shows the true meaning of statemanship.



BANCROFT BOYS BASEBALL TEAMS

Greetings For
"Old Home Week"

GRANT GORDON

General Insurance



Box 97 Phone 252
Bancroft, Ontario

Compliments
of

BEAUTY BOX SALON



Hastings St. Phone 331
Bancroft, Ontario
Kay Genest

Compliments of
COOK'S WHOLESALE
NATIONAL GROCERY CO. LTD.
YORK TRADING LTD.

VISIT

The Arlington Hotel

Maynooth, Ontario

For relaxing pleasure, comfortable rooms and tasty food
Under Liquor License Act

Phone Maynooth 239



Pioneers - Roads and Highways

Oh - ho ahem — Well Grandpa it's about time you woke up; you have slept for over 50 miles and we will soon be with the gang celebrating Old Home Week in Bancroft.

"Where are we now Jane? — We are at Green's Corners, just five miles from Bancroft. — Well I am glad to be awake to see how these V-8 cars make L'Amable hill. — tell me now — did you stall on "The Hole In The Wail or the "Devils Elbow?" — Say Grandpa, where are all these places you speak of, I have heard you tell our neighbours in Saskatchewan how you did not mind being stuck on those hills back home, but when you are stuck in gumbo on level ground as far as the eye can see, there is not much hope.

Now Grandpa, just tell me where those hills are: — They are on the Hastings road, between Madoc, Bancroft and Maynooth: Is that not the way we are travelling? — It sure is Grandpa, but we have many new roads in this area since you went West. They all have numbers now, this Highway is number 62, it runs from Madoc to Pembroke — Well, well; tell me all about these new roads, — I have not time now Grandpa, but will tell you all about it later, right now you will notice that the building is continuous along the highway. Just look at this nice little Highway Park at Quarry Lake, and when we pop over the next hill will be the start of our Industrial Section which continues in to Bancroft. You will see that it runs about the same pattern as when you left this country, only that the timber and minerals are milled here before shipment, whereas in your days produce was sent down the river road or rail in the raw state. — Now Jane, tell me the history of these new roads.

Well, O.K. Gramps. You have told about the good old days on the bad old roads, Now I will tell you all about our new highways. In the winter of 1932-33, small jobs were opened up employing men on road work in the Bancroft area. Since this work was offered to the unemployed at that time, and to cover as many families as possible, the rate per day was set at 88 cents. Some ditching and widening of roads was accomplished, but this was only a forerunner to what was yet to come.

The Department of Northern Development set up a district organization in this village in November 1933. The work was performed mostly on Municipal roads, but later, from 1934, a definite pattern of thorough roads was evident. The Monk Road, Paudash and Burleigh Roads, now parts of Highway 28, had many Board camps along the route, housing the workmen who performed mostly hand work such as picking, shovelling, drilling of rock and the use of teams of horses to haul the material to the fills. On the Hastings road, five Board camps were created to employ men from the municipalities as well as many from outside points. The work was mostly by hand labour, and the rate per day was \$1.20, with a small charge for meals when boarding in camp. There were many tradesmen from all walks of life employed on this road. One foreman stated that it reminded him of the verse about the employees on the construction of the Rock Island Railroad, which went, "There were tinkers and tailors, shoemakers and snobs, butchers and bakers all looking for jobs."

These roads were pioneered by the Department of Northern Development, and at certain points along the line our fathers and grandfathers protested, saying that the wide road was not necessary and it would be more advisable to keep the main road narrow and gravel the sides with the money saved. The Department of Highways absorbed these roads in the spring of 1937 and since that time have made vast improvements, such as

*'Cec' Towes
Sport Shop*



Everything For The Sportsman

Box 459

Bancroft, Ont.

Art Phillips

Masonry
Contractor

Bancroft - Ontario

McCAW'S MEAT and GROCERY MARKET

Welcome You Back Home



Groceries — Meat — Vegetables

We Deliver

Phone 284

We hope you have a nice home coming

Bancroft

Concrete Products Ltd.

manufacturers of

Cement Blocks - Bricks - Well Tile



Phones: Bus. 518W1 Res. 828R15

Bancroft, Ontario

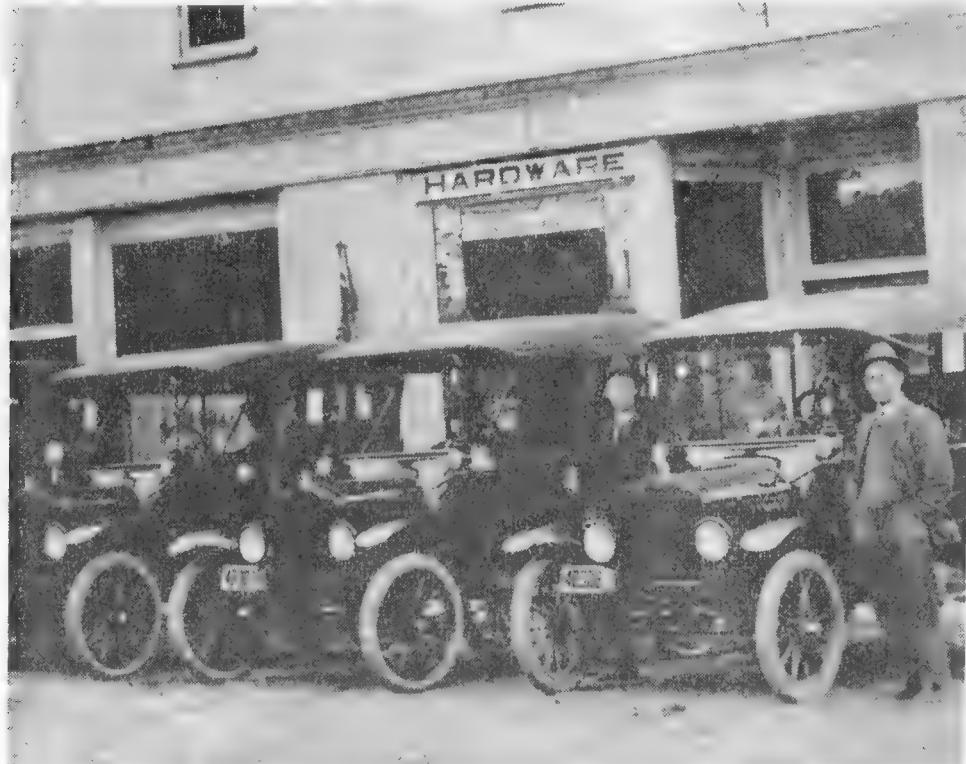
Box 637

new surveys, new bridges, widening of roads, blastings the rocky hills and filling the valleys and swamps, with the result that we now feel that the roads we have in this country are as good as those in any part of the province.

"Now Jane, you have told me about the new roads in this country, let me tell you about the old roads, like going to Maynooth pushing a Model "T" up Selby Hill in a heavy rain." "Oh no thanks, Grandpa, these old boys attending the Old Home Week will know all about that, and I have heard it all before."

Anonymous.

The above article was contributed by a Department of Highway official, who was in on the road building scheme for North Hastings from the beginning. Today the Highway Department has the largest plants, employs the most men and uses the largest office staff in Bancroft. The Division extends from the County line as far east as Pembroke and as far south as Madoc and up through Algonquin Park. Using the best equipment, this efficient force keeps the highways open in the worst winter storms and maintains a constant vigil over the hundreds of miles of fine highways in the district. Building the two great Highways, 62 and 28 to Bancroft, has been the answer to the great expansion in the country, which would not have occurred if those good roads had not been constructed. The Highway Department is now developing roadside parks, a splendid feature. Almost all of its employees are trained first aid men and the many reports from visitors of courtesies and help given by the D.H.O. speak well for their abilities.



SOME OF THE FIRST CARS IN BANCROFT

Callaghan's Grocery Store

Bridge St. East

Welcome you to Bancroft "Old Home Week"

Bancroft, Ont.

Phone 95

Congratulations and Good Wishes for "Old Home Week"

BILL McCASKEY RIDING STABLE

Saddle Horses and Ponies to rent by the hour

Trail Rides

Draft and light horses for sale

Purebred German Sheppard pups for sale

Six miles north of Bancroft on Highway 62

Phone 802-R-13

My Best Wishes

For a successful "Old Home Week"

Hughson's Service Station



Imperial Esso Products - Television
Radio Sales and Service
Taxi

Phone 6-R-3

Box 31, Coe Hill, Ont.

Law and Order

When Bancroft was incorporated in 1904, the first council deemed it necessary to appoint a constable to keep the law-breakers of the community under control. The early duties of the town cop were not onerous, as there were no traffic problems, or crooks tearing around the country which seems to be fashion these days. The duties of the constable seemed to be handling inbriates from the local bars, stopping the odd dog fight, ringing the curfew and handling the crowds at fires and other unscheduled attractions. The first constable appointed was John Bailey. Among those who have served are: Milt Steenburg, Thomas Kehoe, John Kerr, E. Whitefoot, Earl Young, Lou Robbins, Forrest Chapman, Roy Robinson and Paddy Wells. In later years the Ontario Provincial Police have provided the communitt with one of their men. The present Bancroft constable is Eldred Rodtka, who works in close cooperation with the local O.P.P. detachment.

The first police office was in the old community hall, which had a small jail ready to accommodate any deserving citizen. The office was later moved to the municipal building on Hastings Street and now occupies a portion of the new municipal headquarters on Flint Street.



The Ontario Provincial Police started a detachment here in 1933. The first constable was Price Morris, followed by Stanley Palmateer. Archie Grayling and the present officer in charge is Corporal John Williams. The O.P.P. purchased the old Red Cross Outpost opposite the public school in 1950, and have renovated that building into an efficient law-enforcing plant, complete with courtroom, magistrate's quarters, radio station, jail and padded cell. The force in 1961 consists of: Corporal John Williams, Constables John Hawkins, James Cox, Lynn Phillips, Ray Hooker, Dave Brown, Herb Brown and Charles Disley. This group of men forms an efficient law enforcing team throughout North Hastings. They keep close watch on traffic and a contsant check against break-ins, property damage and crowd control. The men on this force have always been upstanding citizens, taking leading parts in welfare and sports projects.

This district has never been noted for lawlessness, although there have been one or two incidents of more than passing interest.

About 1908, Constable Milt Steenburg received word to be on the lookout for three bandits who were reported heading for Bancroft. The men were reported to be

Rabb Diamond Drilling Ltd.

WATER WELL DRILLING

SOIL TESTING

MASONRY DRILLING

Phone Bicroft 2481

Cardiff, Ont.

Compliments
of your local
**Canadian Tire Associate
Store**

Flint Ave., Bancroft

Phone 224

Where your dollar goes the farthest on

**TIRES - BATTERIES - OIL - PARTS
SPORTING GOODS and ACCESSORIES**

Proprietor:

Mrs. Audrey Sexsmith

Manager:

Murray Sexsmith

armed and dangerous. Word came to the constable that two suspicious characters were seen entering Levines store on Bridge Street. When the policeman checked them, they were indeed the wanted men. Although unarmed, Mr. Steenburg attempted to arrest the men. But one of them drew a pistol and held him at bay while the other man and he made their escape. They were joined by the third desperado on the bridge and all three ran up the railway tracks. Mr. Steenburg obtained a pistol and fired several times at the men, but they got away. As they were on foot, two or three posses were formed and started to hunt the outlaws. All homes were locked at night as the Bancroft men scoured the surrounding hills in an effort to locate the bad guys. However no trace was ever found. Mr. Lorne Davy, of Bancroft, recalls that his sergeant overseas in the first war was one of these bandits. The sergeant told Lorne that the three hid in an old barn right in Bancroft for two days until they were able to slip away during the night.

There has been one unsolved suspected murder in town. A man named Coe was found drowned in the river, after a riotous night in one of the hotels in town. He was apparently choked to death and his body thrown into the river, but by whom, or under what circumstances, was never found out.



JANUARY 3rd, 1935

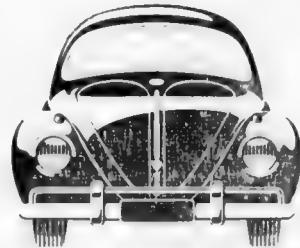
To receive medal. Public reception will be held on Friday evening, January 24th, in honour of Miss Christine Shannick, a registered nurse. A medal award by the Royal Canadian Humane Association for her act of bravery in the rescue of Andrew Rayburn in March, 1934, presented by Dr. A. T. Embury, M. P.

Maxwell-Evan's Motors Ltd.

Volkswagen

SALES & SERVICE

SHELL STATION



Jeep Dealer

24 HOUR TOWING

Highway 28

Bancroft 72

Welcome Back to Bancroft

L. B. Rupert Ladies' Wear

Everything in Ladies' Wear

Phone 294 W

Bancroft, Ont.

Lumbering

Even before the Hastings Road was surveyed, a great interest was being taken by lumber companies about the forests of this area. Hard on the heels of the first

settlers came the big Bronson & Weston Company. The men came up the York from the Madawaska and found large stands of virgin forests ready for the axe. This Lumber Company immediately built a large headquarters east of present day Bancroft and the big operations began. Labour was usually recruited from the Ottawa Valley lumbermen, and Quebec province. The few men in this locality were busy with their new homes, although they did work in the camps whenever possible. Mr. Archie Riddle was one of the Bronson Co.'s first superintendent. The company brought in hundreds of teams of horses and an efficient operating scheme. All through the winter the bush rang with the sound of axes and saws and crashing trees. Pine and hemlock were cut first. The camps were strategically located in the centre of the cuts. The logs were piled on the ice covered lake surfaces to await the spring thaw. The men worked hard and long, keeping "Company Time". Working conditions were hard and there were many accidents.

ARCHIBALD RIDDELL

As the timber was cleared from the easier to get at districts, the lumbermen worked farther and farther into the bush. In time the Gilmour Lumber Co., the Rathburn Co., and the Eddy Company worked limits in the area. For convenience, the gangs worked together on the drives which started as soon as the lakes broke up.

The Rathburn Lumber Company built a large headquarters near Burnt Lake, called the Bruton farm. Some of the timbers from the buildings there were used to build the Department of Lands and Forests warehouse in Bancroft. Operations on the York river went as far upstream as possible, far beyond Branch Lake even to Sand Lake, which is the source of the river. As the logs floated down, each small lake was dammed in an efficient manner by the lumbermen. In some places, a chute was constructed to by-pass rapids and falls where log jams would occur. When the dam was opened, the rush of water would usually carry the timbers over the rocks and into the swift flowing stream below. The men followed the timbers from Sand Lake, through Byers, over four sets of white water and then guided them down the York, through Elephant and Baptiste, using every bit of daylight available and always rushing against time and falling water levels. Over High Falls came the logs and then past the Crooked and Flat rapids below. Bancroft was finally reached and as it was the first and only civilization to be contacted on the drive, the boys looked forward eagerly to their arrival. Reaching Bancroft usually meant some wild celebrations and plenty of fights. The open bars were more than welcome and the lumber companies lost many hundreds of man hours in town. As there was always a log jam in the rapids in town, there would be considerable delay in getting things started again. One year, the companies offered the Hotel managers a large sum of money to close down while the drive went through. Once Bancroft was left behind, the hard work began again, Lavalle Rapids was a bad spot and Egan Chutes was a real troublemaker. Below that the Farm Chutes waited. Usually when this last obstacle was overcome, the big problem of low water became serious. And by the time the Madawaska river was reached at Conroy's Marsh, most of the logs were bombed until the next spring when high water would take them over the many more rapids and falls of the Madawaska, as they continued on down to Arnprior and the Ottawa for further travelling to the Capital city and even down to Montreal.

What a journey these men had. Many tragic accidents took place. Drownings were common and there was no way to send the man back to his home so he was usually



Compliments

of

GORD GROVES

Paint and Wallpaper Store



Opp. Legion Hall

Phone 211J

Best Wishes for your
"OLD HOME WEEK"

Welding Gases

LIMITED

Peterborough, Ont.
Bancroft, Ont.

Barker's Hardware

Floor Covering
Paints Building Supplies



Bancroft, Ontario

Welcome and Greetings

Walter E. Hinze

General INSURANCE Agent
Fire, Auto, Life, Casualty



Bancroft Box 597 Tel. 509

*Best Wishes for a
"Good Old Home Week."*

George Easton

GENERAL
CONTRACTOR



Bancroft, Ont. Phone 29

Barker's

BUILDER'S SUPPLIES

Sash and Doors
Plywoods Mouldings
Custom Milling
Dressed Lumber



Bancroft Phone 359
Highway 62 South

buried near the spot where he died and his personal effects kept until they could be sent back to his folks. There is a river driver buried almost at the exact spot where the traffic light blinks regularly as the junction of Hastings and Bridge streets. Another lies at Lavalliey's Rapids and at least one more at Egan Chutes. The custom used to be that their boots were used as grave markers.



LOG JAM AT HIGH FALLS

When the logs jammed in white water the result was a terrible mess of heavy timbers piled in great heaps in a tangle which had to be seen to be appreciated. The company usually had an expert riverman who could go in among those hundreds of logs and locate the one single log which was causing the whole jam. He would loosen that log ever so carefully and then as it started to move, run for his life for the shore. Most of them would have heavy ropes tied to their bodies so that those on shore could pull them to safety. If the man was successful in breaking the jam, the whole mass of logs would move and he would receive a large bonus from his company and a round of drinks from his fellow workers.

It is recalled that a large log jam occurred in the Bancroft rapids just at the site of the power house. Two men volunteered to break the jam. Mick Sabourin and John Bernard, the latter an Indian, went out into the pileup. Just as they got to the centre of the jam, it gave way of its own accord and both men were swept from sight. Sabourin, a non-swimmer, was washed up on shore at the Eddy, alive and unharmed, but Bernard, a giant of a man, and a great swimmer, was drowned. The tragedy was witnessed by many town people who were down watching the drive go through.

When the rival gangs hit Bancroft at the same time, the fur really flew. Each had its own individual champion, or strong man, and there had to be a fight to find out who was the best. The rules were simple. Each could carry a large stone, but this could only be used once, and was usually thrown from a short distance. Then the real fight began. Fists, feet, anything went, and the men would fight until one lay helpless on the ground. It was then the privilege, in fact almost the obligation, of the victor to rake the fallen man's face with his spiked boots -- thus to mark him for life as a beaten warrior. Many will recall Louie Brisette who was a river driver long ago. He always wore a heavy beard to hide those telltale scars.

The river men were indeed a colorful lot. Nothing which can be written can really describe them and their way of life. The labours they performed were prodigious, and the legends of their exploits should never be forgotten.

BIERWORTH'S GARAGE

*Studebaker & Hillman Sales
Motorcade Accessories*

Phone 103

Hastings Street N.

Bancroft, Ontario

Welcome to You from McGhee's

We are pleased to have you with us to celebrate Bancroft's first "Old Home Week". It has been our privilege to advance with Bancroft for over 30 years, so while you are here with us, be sure to visit our

TWO STORES THAT SERVE BANCROFT AND DISTRICT

First in

RADIO

TELEVISION

APPLIANCES

**SPORTING
GOODS
&
SOUVENIRS**

McGhee's Sales & Service

PROPRIETORS:

MRS. L. McGHEE

M. G. McGHEE

Lumbering continued to be the chief industry here. With more efficient operations, more of the trees were used. Saw mills made their appearance. The Rathburn Company sold out to the Hydro which used their mill just north of town and the railroad provided more efficient and speedy means of transportation. The big companies have all gone, leaving their memories and many unmarked graves.

As second growth trees matured, more lumbering was carried on. Demands for pulp and other forest products have always kept lumbering going here and with reforestation and an efficient fire fighting force such as the Department of Lands and Forests now have, there will always be a future in lumbering in this North Hastings.

Men in War

The men of North Hastings were not found wanting when the call to the Colours came. In both World Wars the contribution made by Bancroft soldiers was high - for many it was the supreme sacrifice.

In older wars this district has had its representatives. It is recalled that a Sergeant Wilcox of Hybla attended the 1916 12th of July in Maynooth. He was a veteran of the Crimean War. Mr. A. C. Barker had been at Waterloo. In the South African War, Leonard Laundry and A. F. Burns took part in action.

The War of 1914-18 saw many men from here leave for overseas and the mud and mire of central Europe. There were no representatives, as far as we know, in the Air Force or Navy, but the infantry, the Queen of Battle, was well sprinkled with the lads from North Hastings, many right in the front line. The Bancroft Times of those years has printed many letters sent by the boys to their loved ones back home. Epistles from Bert Power, Milt Brough, Chad Stoughton, Nick Tripp, Wilson Moore and many others were printed. Great crowds went to the local C.N.R. station to bid the recruits goodbye, and even greater ones were on hand to welcome them home.

In the Second World War, the local men were on hand as before. This time, some joined the Navy and others the R.C.A.F. But the infantry was still the main choice and the famous "Hasty-Pees" was well populated with the boys from Bancroft and district. Their contribution as even greater, as many became officers and non-coms, and were through the whole show from France in 1940, through Italy and back to the Scheldt in Holland in the last months of the campaign. As an indication of their readiness, here is a list of Bancroft men who were in the very first contingent sent overseas from Canada in 1939: Glenn Letts, John Mills, Harvey Baumhour, Gordon Crosby, Jack Woodcox, Ernie Young, Buster Milne, Lou Robbins, Angus Rupnow, Ray Watson, Fred Delyea, Ross Downey, Norman Fisher, Robert Gray, Russell Price, Earl Young, Jack Authorson, John Milne, Wm. Munro, Wm. Robbins, German Vardy, Jim McCaw, Roy Conlin, Murray Kelusky, Walter Munro, Laurence Robbins, Wilbert Kellar, Angus Lowery, Joe Authorson, Norman Mooney, Jack Moxam, Percy Thompson, George Vardy, Wallace Hennessy, Bill Fuller, Hugh Maxwell, Percy Pimateer. This list is not complete by any means.

When the Korean War broke out there were local men in that stale mate, too. Please study the picture of the War Memorial in this book. Thereon you will see the names of those fearless men who did their duty for their country to the very utmost. Read the list, then read it again - slowly. Their names deserve more than a passing glance.

The local Branch of the Canadian Legion has done a magnificent job in keeping a fitting memorial to their fallen comrades. The Legion Hall is a credit to Bancroft and is the centre of many important events in town. The fine work being done by the Legion men and women in welfare work, should be appreciated by all. They are indeed an asset to their community.



THE BAR AT THE QUEEN'S HOTEL



A GROUP OF BANCROFT YOUNG PEOPLE

Back Row: Annie Haase, Frank Thomson, Jule Haase, John Reid. Front Row: Bobby Gunter, Lillian Davy, Mayme Brash, Lil Haase, Fanny Dobensky.

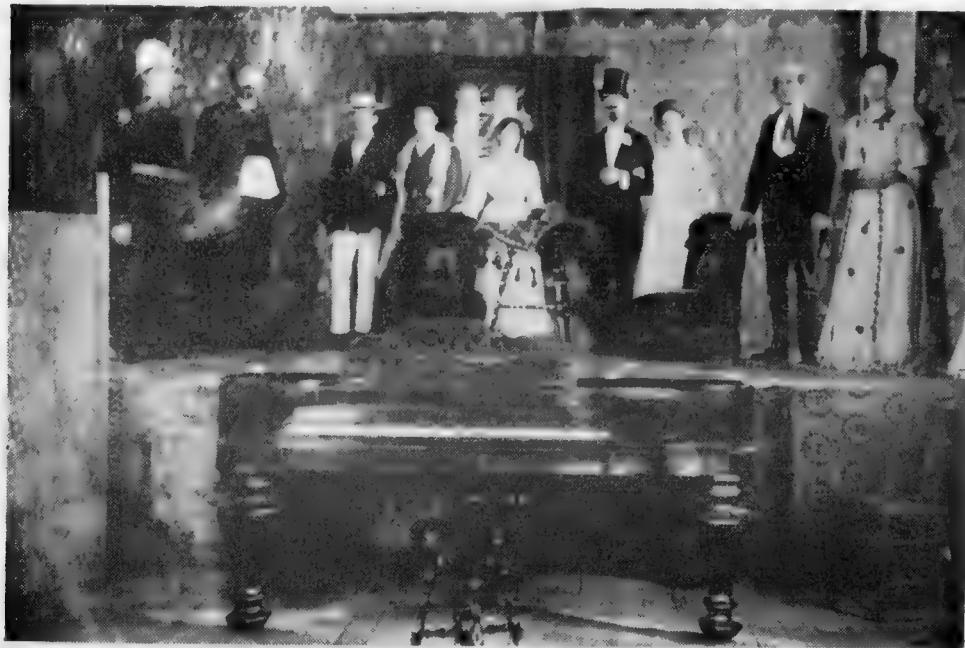
"Up Cher Monk"

No history of Bancroft would be complete without mention of the Monk Road, famous thoroughfare which was built from Lake Couchiching east to the Rideau Lakes. It was started in 1866 and finished 7 years later, and ran through the wilderness of Upper Canada. Its primary purpose was to open up the back woods, and it also was a handy second road for communication across to Ottawa in case the lake front roads were blocked by enemy troops. The latter reason happily was never needed, but it did play an important part in developing the north of this district. It happened to intercept the Hastings Road right at Bancroft. The chief engineer was Mr. Snow, P.L.S., and he must have been an excellent road builder, because of all the old roads which were built in those early days—the Hastings, Peterson, Opeongo and the Bobcaygeon—the Monk is the only remaining and being used for many miles along its original right-of-way. It is called Monk Road to Bancroft and then the Snow Road from Bancroft east to the Rideaus.

While the land through which the Monk ran locally, was never too good for farming, nevertheless the Monk has always been referred to by local residents with a bit of pride. The settlers who lived along its meandering ways were a famous bunch of characters with picturesque names and habits. There was Black George Woodcox and his kin, Grey George and High-Heeled George. And there was Red Anse and Grey Anse and Black Anse, Cnoke-Bore and Axe-Handle Jack. There was big Dave Woodcox and Aunt Het, and many, many more. Some of these men were strong and could do two men's work, if they saw fit. They were a happy care-free citizenry, disdaining hard work except when absolutely necessary, good at fishing and trapping—paying little attention to taxes and the law, yet ready to help anyone who needed it. Their philosophy of life may not have been in tune with the times, but many a hard working tax-payer in town must have looked on the residents of the Monk with not a little envy.



1927 CONFEDERATION DAY PARADE



BANCROFT'S FIRST LITTLE THEATRE GROUP

"Finnegan's Fortune" Title of first play.

Cast: Frank Thompson, Ernest George, Elvin Haase, Mabel McCaw, Nellie Fair, Ernie Davy, Lou Jarman, George Wease, Lizzie Mullett.



MRS. McFEE LAYS THE CORNER-STONE OF
THE NEW METHODIST (NOW UNITED) CHURCH.

Social Life in the Early Days

One thing which the pioneer families and their children really took advantage of was the rare social events which came infrequently to the communities. They never had a choice of entertainments which are so common today. But when the opportunity for a relaxing evening came, everyone was on hand. Whenever there was a wedding, there would be a dance afterwards and no formal invitations were needed. Everyone came and made an evening out of it. The women of the district would bring food, and as soon as the evening chores were finished, the whole family would start for the hall, or home where the affair was being held. Dancing was the thing in those days and almost the entire routine would be energetic square dances. The stamina of the dancers was amazing, and would put the modern jivists to shame. The fourth change of each square was called the "breakdown" when each male dancer tried to outdo the others with fancy footwork and flawless timing. The women were as light on their feet as feathers and the grace and beauty of a well performed square would equal any of today's ballets. There was usually a break for lunch about midnight and to give the musicians time to relax and the men a chance to wander out for sly swig of the soft drink of the day. Then the dancing would commence again and last right until dawn. About the only other breaks in the affair would be the presentation of gifts to the newly weds and a step-dancing contest. This last usually was more of an endurance feat than anything else, with each dancer trying to keep going to fast music longer than the others.

Even when there was a death in the community, the wake was a social gathering, with neighbours coming to pay their respect to the departed and remaining to talk and visit. And if the deceased was a very old person, his death was considered without too much regret and the wake would become fairly jolly.

The Twelfth of July was always looked forward for the fun it provided. The annual fall fairs were the scene of more social gatherings and each of the small schools had a Christmas concert to which every family attended and every pupil performed on the makeshift stage.

Later on, social calenders became so full that there were far too many. Nowadays a dance doesn't start until after 10, and is over by 1:00 a.m., with the participants moving rapidly around the polished floor. They couldn't last one square of the old-fashioned hoe-downs.

As Bancroft grew, the medicine show made its appearance and throngs flocked to the local Community Hall to see the performances. The shows were good entertainment and there was usually a chance for local talent to make an appearance.

Another social event were the church picnics which included every member of the parish and even some non members. Races and games were undertaken by the youngsters and the ladies were busy spreading the food out for easy access.

Nearly every home had an organ or piano and groups of people would gather around for a real old fashioned sing-song.

Other social evenings saw card playing which usually featured euchre and whist or 500. Bridge became popular later on.

People in those days seemed to enjoy the odd social evening so much more than in contemporary times. While we might think these events are simple and old-fashioned, they at least attained their purpose which was to relax everyone without continuing the tensions of modern life.

Church plays were very popular and in time the High School held an annual play which was always well received. The first real stage play was one called "Finnegan's Fortune" about 1909. A picture of the cast is still in existence. There were some sp'endid actors and actresses here. Clifford Bremner, Les Broad, Kay Joynt, Emerson Laundry, Bob Hillis, Frank Thompson, and many more were outstanding amateur performers.

Recently the Bancroft Little Theatre group was formed and this company of local people have given excellent performances and are planning even better things in the future.

M. Loeb Limited

Established 1912

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

Tobaccos - Confectionery - Groceries
- Sundries and Appliances -

Pembroke

Ontario

CLARE REID*Cartage - Trucking
and Moving*

Bancroft, Ont. Phone 317J

**Peterborough Automotive Supply
Co. Ltd.**

Bancroft - Ontario

Welcome Back
to
Bancroft

**G. L.
Robbins**

Local & Long Distance
Hauling

Phone Bancroft 804-R-13

Best Wishes
for a
Grand Re-union

**Vic
Fredericks**
C.L.U.



Peterborough, Ontario
London Life Insurance Co.

The Fall Fairs

The highlight of the autumn in Bancroft was undoubtedly the annual Fair which was held on the present High School grounds, and still known as the "Old Fair Grounds." This occasion was looked forward to for months by all the citizens of the district. Long before the great day, the farmers and their wives were busy preparing for it. Choice stands of corn were earmarked for exhibition, the best preserves were made ready, and the vegetable garden was under close scrutiny to reserve the best products for Fair Day in Bancroft.

It was always a two day affair. The first day was set aside for the reception of exhibits and these were arranged by several committees in neat order, each one tagged with the exhibitors number (not his name). The great hall was usually filled to capacity with the fruits of the country—the choicest cooking was displayed to its best advantage—the finest needlework and the like was hung up for all to see and admire. During the first day, after the deadline for entries, the solemn judges cleared the hall of everyone but themselves and went about their work quietly and efficiently. No one knew these judges. They were sent by the Department of Agriculture—remained incognito—and had departed immediately, leaving the entries either festooned with a first, second or third prize ribbon, or a dismal blank.

Special trains were brought into town, loaded with passengers and pitch men. The night of the first day, saw the hotels bursting with customers and the streets thronged with people, all awaiting the second day, which was the real Fair Day. Everyone was up early, then. The cattle and farm animals were brought in and taken to their stalls on the grounds. The judging of these were completed quickly and the same prize patterns were used. Then the crowds started streaming to the grounds, the halls were opened to everyone, the pitch-men started their speils—Louis Brisette arrived with his little sulky—and the Fair was on!

It was a great thrill to everyone and there was excitement and fun for all. Farmers were busy inspecting the prize winning cattle. Their wives were examining closely, the entries in the hall, the horseraces were starting and everywhere, everyone was visiting. Many people had never seen each other since last Fair Day and the year's news had to be given.

The trotting races were occupying the attention of most, with the old grand stand filled to capacity and the race judges watching the starts closely and belling them back whenever one tried to get off ahead of the pole horse. These were the days of Sid Direct, of Maude S, and many more fine race horses. John LaBarge of the Queens always had great racers in these contests. Horses from out of town were always present and the betting, entirely unofficial, was high and wide at times.

Later on, the baseball games started and the setting sun usually gave the players enough daylight to finish the ninth inning. The big Dance in the evening ended the day and many tired but happy persons wended their way home already looking forward to next Fair Day.

MARCH 6th, 1896

Encouraged by the success of the industry in other places, we do not hesitate to propose for Bancroft the erection and operation for Bancroft of blast furnaces for the smelting, with charcoal, of the rich iron ores with which North Hastings abounds.

Charles J. Pusey, president of the I. B. & O. railway was in town this week, and we understand that he has been in consultation with certain capitalists who recognize the many advantages of this locality for such an industry.

"If those parties who arranged to deliver wood and potatoes at The Times Office will drop along before the Editor freezes or starves to death, it will save mentioning the matter in his will."

JANUARY 18th, 1933

Carnival — Adults 25c
Children 15c

OCTOBER 12th, 1933

Stuard Black and Glen Letts
treed by a moose.

OCTOBER 13th, 1933

Fowl Supper at United Church
Adults 25c, Children 15c

NOVEMBER 5th - 25th, 1933

Deer Season (No Dogs)

JULY 6th, 1933

Prices — Bread 7c loaf
Sugar 7c lb.
Shirt 75c each

FEBRUARY, 1933

Coffee 32c lb., Tea 29c lb.

JANUARY, 1933

Teachers Salary - \$850. per year

APRIL 27th, 1933

3¢ tax of cheque

FEBRUARY, 1933

273 men on relief in Trenton,
1 day work week, anyone
driving car, attending shows,
playing pool or spending on
needless luxuries not given
further work.



THE QUEEN'S HOTEL

FEBRUARY 12, 1905

Queen's Hotel. George Weiss, proprietor. This hotel has been refurnished and re-fitted throughout. Our bar is stocked with the choicest brands of liquor, cigars and our tables are furnished with the best the market affords. Good stables and an attentive hostler will be there to take the best care of your horses. The new proprietor is sparing no expense in making every accommodation for the general public.

MAY 28th, 1925

The new 4 point 4 beer has been placed on sale in the Bancroft and Queen's Hotel. The local imbibitors find it very good.

DECEMBER 14th, 1937

Queen's Hotel burns. It was erected in 1887. Mr. Jack La-Barge, owner at time of fire.

History Continued

After the first settlers had taken up the lots along the Hastings Road, more land was made available, with surveyors moving back deeper into the townships. By 1875 there were two growing communities. L'Amable and York River. The former seemed to be favourable to develop. Mills were constructed there by Mr. Jarman and Mr. Robinson and it was a going community. But York River suddenly spurted ahead. The river through it, with cheap and available water power was the reason. The Monk Road came through Hastings County and crossed the Hastings Road right at York River. The eastern townships of Mayo and Carlow were becoming populated. Bancroft became the new name in 1879 and all roads led to it. Senator Flint became interested and brought in carpenters, builders, millwrights, and craftsmen. The lumber companies chose Bancroft as the logical centre of their activities. And Bancroft was the easiest place available for the farmers to bring their products.

The first mill was a grinding mill and was operated by Robert Thompson. Two large round stones of opposite "grain" were used for grinding the grain.

The Davy family moved to L'Amable, but soon settled in Bancroft. Mr. W. D. Davy and his four sons, William, Adam, George and Chester, formed a busy construction team and their building accomplishments still stand. Most of the churches in town and many of the homes were built by the Daveys.

A pioneer lumberman, Robert Elliott, had a portable saw mill which he would take from place to place and produce the required lumber right on the spot. He worked in close cooperation with the Daveys and many of the buildings in Bancroft today have lumber from his mill.

In 1884, Mr. David Fuller and his wife, Josephine arrived and built the famous Bancroft Custom Woollen Mills. This establishment is still going strong under the management of their son, Oswald. It ships yarn to all parts of Canada, and it is said that Newfoundland province is covered by Bancroft yarn to a depth of two feet.

The Bancroft Woollen Mill has burned three times and each time the Fullers have rebuilt. Mrs. Fuller used to relate that after the third fire, she and her husband were pretty discouraged. But their neighbours and farmer friends came forward with timbers and lumber, sash and frames and other materials, so that they could get started again.

As the mills attracted people, stores and business establishments started and soon L'Amable faded out of contention, although it still is a lovely community with descendants living on the homesteads of their pioneer forefathers. Umphraville disappeared completely. Turriff was still on the map. Ormsby and Bird's Creek faded, but Bancroft continued to grow until by 1904 it was quite ready to apply for municipal status.

Before that, the surrounding districts were being taken up by farmers who worked the new land and found it good. Over to the east was the Vardy settlement where Lewis, Daniel, Archie, Myles and Elijah Vardy had fertile farms. Near them was the Fraser family, then the Bob Creighton farm and the Crivea place. North east of town were the Schanniks, Roys, Franskys, Haase, Thiemans, Rokhops, Musciows, and Dores farms. A little farther on was Thomas York who came in 1878 and was one of the first. In the Moore's bridge area lived the many Ray families, the Moores, and Zabells. Over to the west were the MacLellans, Youngs, Elliots and the very first family there, the Malcolm McGillivray's. In Lower Faraday, were a wonderful group of people, the MacFarlands, Wheelers, Sexsmiths, Hughtons, Neals, Orrs, Kaleys, Johnstons, Kennedys, Tiners, Whites, Marshalls, Ingrams, Deans, Turners, and the Vaders. Also living there was one "Mag" Froelich who was supposed to have the Evil Eye.

To the south lived the L'Amable people, many who are already listed. In the Turriff area were the Nobbs, Andersons, Maguires, Hendersons, McGibbons, Corneals, Towes, and a wonderful Scotsman named Hugh McIndoe.

And a little closer to Bancroft lived the Fred Muliett family and Wm. Detlor. Please bear in mind dear reader that it is impossible to list all the good people who lived here long ago, in this book. Limitations of time, space and memory will wreck their toll. But mentioned or not, their work and sacrifices should always be remembered by those who have come after.



MR. JOHN KELUSKY SR. AND HIS SISTER.

FEBRUARY 11th, 1915

Debenski and Company have just gone out of business and Laundry and Hubbel Brothers have just started.

JUNE 3rd, 1915

The Bank of Nova Scotia will close at 2 o'clock every Wednesday afternoon during the months of June, July, August and September and will remain open until 3 o'clock on Saturday.



JOHN KELUSKY'S FIRST STORE

MAY 1912

Mr. D. Fuller raised the framework of his new woollen mill.

Mr. Walter Wiggins of Faraday has been appointed Inspector of Colonization Roads for North Hastings.

Laundry and Reid business dissolved and business will be continued under the name of Reid & Thompson.

William Ashley purchased hardware store of Hubbel Bros.

The first store in Bancroft was that of Mr. Stubbs, who had a harness and shoe-making establishment down on Hastings Street. The first general store was operated in the late 1870's by Messrs Zabell and Fletcher, two Englishmen. Their store was located on the present site of the Toronto Dominion Bank. When Mr. Fletcher died, Mr. Zabell moved to Bird's Creek. He sold his store to Mr. Fred. Haase in 1883 and Mr. Haase started business with a capital of \$200.00. On the corner of Flint and Hastings Street. Mr. E. J. Cassell opened a general store. He had a clerk named W. J. Sargent, who later bought the store. Over on Bridge street, Mr. J. S. Lees had a place of business. And Mr. John Kelusky arrived in town from Maynooth in 1895 and started a small establishment opposite the Bancroft Hotel. He soon bought out Mr. Sargent who had other irons in the fire, and Mr. Kelusky took over the site and renovated the building on which is still known as "Kelusky's Corner." Mr. Kelusky, who died last year at 94, was a wonderful person, always neat in his dress and manners. He believed in advertising, and every issue of the Bancroft Times for over half a century had a large ad of his, each week a different one. His establishment was a real Department Store and the shelter which he built over the sidewalks was the centre of activity on Saturday night.

Mr. Darby Kavanagh, of Umphraville, had the Davy Brothers build a store on Hastings Street, in 1892. It was operated by George Vizard, then by Mr. Kavanagh's son, Thomas, who later rented it to Fred Fisher.

The Bancroft House, became the Bancroft Hotel. Greenfields built a boarding house later taken over by William Moxam, and the White Eagle Hotel was erected and later changed its name to the Queen's. These three hostleries provided good accommodation for the travelling public, of which there were large numbers.

In 1894, the Bancroft Times started publication with John Bremner as publisher. In 1896, this paper ran the following advertisements. This will give us a fair idea of the business in operation then: Frank C. Humphries (Bancroft Drug Store); W. J. Fitzgerald (Groceries); J. Jackson (Furniture); R. C. Fair (Hardware); J. B. Cleak (general store, Maynooth); E. T. Lumb, (general store, Fort Stewart); B. H. Sweet (Auctioneer); Fred Mullett (Marriage Licences); Walter Whitefoot (Carpenter); W. J. Sargent (Dry Goods); S. Haryett (General store); Davy Brothers (Lumber, Dry Goods and Undertaking); H. C. Gaebel (Horseshoeing); Thomas Walker (Blacksmith); Louis Marois and Peter Laundry (Wood Workers); C. F. Tucker (Jeweller); H. H. Irving (Watchmaker); J. S. Lees (Boots and Shoes); George Mitchell (Horse Millinery); Fred Mullett (Harness); Walter Mullett (Wagonmakers); Fred Fisher (Shoe Repairs); Ed McPherson (Butcher and Baker); A. Brouse (Builder); D. G. Ruttan (Carpenter); George Shannon (Painter); Mrs. K. Greenfield (Millinery); W. Wood (Tonsorial Artist). Local markets in that issue had roller flour at \$2.10 per cwt.; butter rolls at 12½c; lard - 8c; Eggs - 15c doz.; potatoes - 25c bag; green hides - 3c; rendered tallow - 5c; Deakins - 25c. You could take a year's subscription to The Times and the Toronto Daily News for \$1.80.

After John Bremner sold the Bancroft Times to Dave Morrison, he started up an opposition weekly paper, called the Bancroft Recorder, in 1900. For a few short years Bancroft enjoyed two weeklies, but soon it became apparent that the original Times was the more popular, and the Recorder faded into obscurity. Not one copy of this paper could be located. The Times has continued ever since to give good service to its readers.

The paper notes that there would be a social of Mrs. R. C. Fair's, admission 10c. Dr. George Walker, dentist, would be in Bancroft for three days, and his Grace, the Archbishop of Ontario, was confined to his house with a severe cold contracted while on a recent Confirmation tour of North Hastings. It can be seen that Bancroft was an up and coming community.

In the next few years, a prominent citizen in the person of W. J. Sargent did a lot in helping Bancroft. He sold his store to John Kelusky and started a private bank. He invested the money deposited wisely and well and much of it went into developing better machinery in the mills in town. Mr. Sargent's bank was in the Ellis Mather restaurant of present day Bancroft. His large vault was located in the back and he employed two guards to keep watch during the night. These were Frank Thompson and Frank Kelusky, two young men of town who lived above the bank premises.

Mr. Sargent eventually sold his bank to the Metropolitan Bank in 1908. His interest in the town never diminished. Far away lands called him, and he went to



PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 20th, 1906

Building up for sale—The undersigned office for sale and a number of choice building lots on John Street and Cleak Avenue, Bancroft..

Terms: \$36.00 per front and \$24.00 per rear lots. Payable in instalments of \$2.00 and \$3.00 per month and in the event of the death of the purchaser before payment is completed, a clear deed will be given his or her heirs. W. J. Sargent.

JANUARY 10th, 1907

Shipment from the Bessemer Iron Mine on a 200,000 ton contract is to commence to-day.. Machinery has been installed to break the ore to proper size for smelting. An air compressor will be installed in the near future.



A METHODIST CHURCH PLAY - 1918

Front Row: Mrs. R. McLaughlin, Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. R. F. Delyea, Miss Estelle Lumb,
Miss Marjorie Davy, Mrs. David Fuller, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Allen.
Back Row: Mrs. R. C. Fair, Miss Josie Fisher, Miss Bella Bremner, Miss Olga Davy, Miss
Mary Lumb, Mrs. Herb Card, Mrs. A. Davy, Mrs. R. Carswell, Mrs. J. Colling,
Rev. R. McLaughlin, Miss Elda French, Mrs. Cameron.

Cuba, taking a few Bancroftians with him, and started a sugar plantation in Oriente province, where Senor Castro recently got his start. Mr. Sargent came back to Bancroft several times and always maintained his friendships here until his death about 1946.

Mr. Bob Fair was another fine citizen and with Mr. Sargent, was keenly interested in Bancroft. He had the first car ever seen in town. Mr. Wm. Kennedy, proprietor of the Bancroft Hotel, was another progressive citizen. The present Hotel was built by him and has long been a wonderful "Home on the Road" for many.

A 1904 Times lists many more advertisers, among them being: Dobensky & Co. (Clothing); L. H. Richards (Groceries); Joe Lafleur (Windsor Hotel, Maynooth); T. H. Wilkes (Baker); W. S. Lumb (General Store, L'Amable); Walter Ross (Clothing); James Spurr (Grocer, L'Amable); J. H. MacPherson (Veterinarian, L'Amable); Wm. Farnham (Solicitor); B. Haase (General store); M. Rouse (Tinsmithing); John Kelusky (Everything); W. N. Simmons (Tailor); Fair and Sargent (Roiler Mills); J. Jackson (Furniture and Money to Loan); Elvan George (General Store); E. L. Lewis (Jeweller); C. Mullett (Hardware); F. Mullett (Leather Goods); Sanger Laundry (Blacksmith) and Mr. Ludbrook (Photographer).

Many of the pictures in this book are the products of Ludbrook's Gallery. This gifted photographer was a picture taking expert. His store was on Bridge Street, on the Mullett Hardware store site.

By 1908, more merchants took up business here, such as: R. Brown (Grocer); Mrs. F. B. Davy (Dry goods); Dr. Sutton (Maynooth); Laundry and Thompson (Footwear); A. J. Levine (General Store); A. H. Reynolds (Optician); Thomas Turriff (L'Amable); E. Reid and Sons (Clothing). These were in addition to the old standbys.

By 1915, Reid and Thompson had started their large flour and feed and general store on Bridge street. Frank Thompson and Lorne Reid were always active in municipal affairs and took a great interest in Bancroft. Frank Towle was now in the furniture business, besides his Undertaking profession; E. Laundry, W. Ashley, and Hubbel Brothers had started up a hardware business with Mr. T. Maxwell in charge. Fred Mullett was still selling marriage licences. J. H. Fohey (Watch Repair) A. W. Gordon (Notary); John Walker (General Store, L'Amable); McLean, Strudwick and Delyea were operating the Bancroft Planing Mill, Louis Benjamin had a clothing store, M. Bowers (Butcher); P. R. Rogers and A Shannick (Creamery); Thomas French (Grocer); A. H. Terrill (Clothing); and Walter E. Wiggins, (Insurance).

By 1922 several more businesses were operating in town. Among them were: W. E. Detlor (Hardware); Hawley & Stewart (Durant Cars); Maxwell & Reynolds (General Store); L. Vader (Meats); John D. Payne (Ford Cars); Edward Laundry (General store); Walter Vandervoort (Barber); Ed Maxwell & Sons (Chevrolet Cars); V. E. Ottoway (Painter); Theo. Wasmund (Hybla, McLaughlin cars); J. C. Drummond (Planing Mills and Baseball Bats); George H. Brown (Tailor); Bob Delyea (Model Bakery); Gordon Jones (Lumber); C. A. Laundry (Harness); J. Call McAllister (Shoe Repairs); I. A. Eby, J.P. (Notary); T. F. Kavanagh (Marriage Licenses); Mrs. C. Moreland (Practical Nurse); John Perry (Auctioneer); Adam's Flour & Feed (L'Amable). Thomas French (Groceries); Morris Chapman (Tinsmithing); Fred Shannick (Butcher); Criveas Lunch Counter. In a few more years, the names of businesses in Bancroft still had some of the well established firms but there were some new ones: William Richardson (Bakery) L. Wolensky (Dry Goods); R. J. Stringer (Ford Cars and Tractors); John F. Reid (Ice Cream Parlour); James Hannagh (The Popular Auctioneer); B. D. Kelly (Farm Auctioneer); M. J. McGhee (Radios) D. L. Kavanagh (Ties and Lumber); A. H. Davy (Furniture); H. W. Krantz (Tinsmithing); S. Lummis (Baker); Muffit and Kavanagh (Electrical Contractors) and Frank Baalim (Barrister).

We hope that those who read over the above names will recall the people themselves who worked or managed the establishments. Many of them have gone, but a few are still with us. These represent a good cross section of the tax-paying businesses which carried the burden of trade and commerce in the area, with all the work and successes which attend such ventures. Some names have been left out, but not on purpose. We are indebted to the Bancroft Times for most of this information, and to that paper, our sincere thanks.

**W. MAXWELL
& SONS LTD.**

Ford - Monarch

Falcon

Sales & Service



Towing Service

N.A.L.

Hastings St. Phone 67
Bancroft, Ont.

Hayton Electric

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
AND RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC HEATING



G. HAYTON

Phone 521 W 2 Box 241
Bancroft, Ont.

Good wishes for
"Old Home Week"

*Siegner Lumber Company
Ltd.*

Wholesale Hardwoods

Kitchener Ont.

HOTEL BANCROFT

Since 1899

Rooms - Meals - Restaurant

Bar-B-2 Chicken

McAlpine Bros.
Props.

Phone 96
Bancroft

Things and People We Remember From Bancroft's Past

Things and people we remember from Bancroft's past:

The Gypsies: About twice a year a caravan of dark skinned horse traders and fortune tellers arrived in Bancroft and usually encamped at the Eagle's Nest. These were Gypsies, dressed in their traditional costumes, speaking their strange language and living by their wits. They wandered about the town, bargaining with everyone and most of the Bancroft kids were in mortal terror of being kidnapped. They haven't been seen here in many years. Whatever did become of this picturesque group of people?

Jimmie the Tinker: Jimmie was a typical Irish peddler and went about from house to house, dressed in rags and asking for pots and pans to mend. He never begged, but would accept handouts as only his natural due. He carried his soldering equipment on his back and it was said that his scraggy old coat was lined with twenty-dollar bills.

Payson H. Coones: He's still going strong in Belleville and turning out his inventions, such as the four legged tripod - as good as ever.

Bruce Coones: He can be called Bancroft's Ambassador of Good Will. His cheery greeting and friendly wave will always be remembered.

Albert Langstaff: of the Bancroft Hotel. Always on hand to greet and bid farewell to the guests.

The Armenians: A small colony of these energetic people lived in the north end of town about 1910. One of the highlights was a wedding to which the entire town was invited, and went. The feasting, dancing and celebrating went on for almost a week. It was the biggest, longest party Bancroft has ever seen.

Louis Brisette: The stentorian voiced ex-river driver. With his little sulky and pony, Louis made his presence felt, especially on Fair Days.

Pete Brennan: An old fashioned, fighting Irishman, living by himself in a fixed state of bachelorhood, Pete once engaged Louis Brisette in a battle royal right on Hastings Street.

These, and many other characters, should always be remembered by us all, as they were a part of Bancroft's colorful history.

Some of the prominent citizens of Bancroft have not been included in the historical sketches and it would not be right if some mention were not made of them.

Magistrate G. L. Jarman: Moved from his first home in L'Amable to Bancroft to take up his court duties here. He built a fine home just behind the Public School, and took an active part in the community's affairs.

John D. Payne: was instrumental in establishing the first telephone service in the country. He also was active in the Bancroft Light and Power Company. And he operated the first tourist resort at Baptiste Lake.

A. W. Gordon: A busy Notary Public, active in politics and well known and well liked throughout the country.

Walter E. Wiggins: A fine Insurance Agent, prominent in municipal and Lodge affairs. He was reeve of Faraday for many years and a Warden of Hastings county.

James Colling, B.A.: A fine school inspector who lived here for many years. Mr. Colling and his family were leaders in church and social life in the district.

Donald Simpson: Another School Inspector, who was a popular coach of the Bancroft hockey championship teams.

John Churcher: Keenly interested in the community. Mr. Churcher still takes an active part in Bancroft affairs.. He was president of the Agricultural Society for many years, and served on School Boards and local councils.

Mrs. Ellen Kennedy: She was proprietor of the Bancroft Hotel for many years and was a leading figure in church and social work. A wonderful character, Mrs. Kennedy never refused a chance to help the unfortunate.

John B. Labarge: Jack was a great figure in sports, looking after the baseball team and hockey teams and helping the kids obtain uniforms and equipment. He was manager of the old Queens Hotel for a long time. He was always interested in trotting horses and had a fine stable of fast racers.

Gordon W. Jones: Mr. Jones was a great athlete and always was keenly interested in the youth of town - donating for their sports equipment and lending a hand to all.

My best wishes for a good

'Old Home Week'

DOCTOR

I. E.

FONGER

Dentist

Bancroft, Ont. Phone 70

Humpage,
Taylor and
McDonald Co.

CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS



Peterborough
Cobourg
Bancroft
Dan Griffin

Phone 49
Phone 333

Come on home Folks

PEPSI-COLA

GERRY WESTLAKE, Distributor

Bancroft, Ont.

Phone 208

Pepsi-Cola

Kist Flavours

Schweppes Ginger Ale

Tonic Water

Light And Power

Despite the readily available water power, Bancroft was a long time waiting for the benefits of electricity. Mr. Harry Strudwick, who was connected with the Bancroft Light and Power Company has supplied the following notes:

"Power first developed by Mr. Robert Fair and Mr. W. J. Sargent. Later Charles Mullett bought out Mr. Sargent's interests and it was operated as Fair and Mullett. Then Harry Strudwick and R. F. Delyea purchased Mr. Fair's interests and the company was operated under Bancroft Power Co.

In 1930, it was incorporated as Bancroft Light and Power Co. Ltd. and changed from direct current to alternating current. This required new and larger water wheel with oil pressure governors and large A.C. generator with all alternating equipment. It also meant that new power lines of high tension secondaries and services including transformers and meters. But it also meant 24 hour service. When the plant started there were 96 consumers. Now there are 783.

The Village took over the plant in 1945 and the Municipality has operated ever since, working in close cooperation with the Ontario Hydro."

In the old days, it used to be said that you needed a match to find the electric light. Power was a luxury those days and many homes did not bother to use it. The old reliable coal-oil lamp and the glowing wood stove were the common thing then. Street lights were unknown. But when the new plant was started in 1930, a great change took place. With 24 hour service and good power, the oil lamps were relegated to the attic, and the wood burners replaced by oil stoves and electric heaters.

Mines And Miners

Right behind the first settlers came the prospectors. The gold strikes near Eldorado in the world. It has been proven time and again, and Bancroft Marble has been used while Bancroft district abounded in minerals, the quantities were not sufficient for profitable mining. There were many starts made, especially in Monteagle, where rock hounds still poke around the slag heaps and have found wonderful samples of great variety.

But to the south, near Quarry Lake, is one of the largest deposits of good marble in the world. It has been proven time and again, and Bancroft Marble has been used in some of the country's finest buildings. Why is this mine now dormant? The answer is somewhat of a mystery, and we will not attempt to solve it. Since the 1890's and right up to 1940 there have been revivals of interest in Bancroft marble. Let's hope that some day, this famous mine will really get going.

To the east lies another giant of a mine - the Bessemer. Here is a tremendous quantity of low grade iron and at one time fortunes were made from it. It was a going concern for years and there are hopes that it will soon be revived again.

The big mining news for this district was the discovery, to the west, of Uranium, in the years following the Second World War. The opening of four mines - Greyhawk, Dyno, Bicroft and Faraday, brought an amazing boom to Bancroft. Many thousands of people descended on the area and money flowed like water. Those hectic years saw this district go ahead so fast that people who had been away for only a short time, would hardly recognize the place when they returned. The contribution to this town from the mines has been tremendous - not only in the economy but in fine citizens, sports, and cultural developments.

Bancroft 5c to \$1 Store

"Growing With Bancroft For 27 Years"

Headquarters for all Variety Merchandise
at minimum prices



*We welcome all our visitors to
OLD HOME WEEK*



HATTIN
FUNERAL
HOME

and
AMBULANCE

Bridge W
Bancroft 110

Contributed by Mrs. Gertrude Cameron

As an older resident of Bancroft, for sixty years, I have watched this village grow and improve. I sometimes go back in mind and think of Bancroft when I first came. At that time there was no railroad - just a stage coach from Ormsby. We moved into the house now occupied by George Thomson, later buying the Lynn house on Sherbourne. My husband, John D. Payne, installed the first telephone system in Bancroft. He put the first phone in our house and then went out with his men to run lines to Maynooth. One day, the phone rang and when I answered it was Mr. Payne, whom I could hear distinctly. He was calling from Selby Hill, from a telephone pole with his test phone. This was the first phone call received in Bancroft. Mr. Payne took the lines to James Haryett's store in Maynooth. I would be called from there as there was no local service in Bancroft, and I would have to deliver messages, many times. Soon, Mr. Payne improved the service and built a better system. Mrs. Peter Stringer and Mrs. Robert Stringer handled the two exchanges.

My husband also did all the wiring work when the first electric light company was formed. There have been many changes in Bancroft since those days. I have been in several places, but have yet to meet people to compete with the kindness of the people here. If we look for the good in people, we won't find any room for criticism.



MRS. GERTRUDE CAMERON
89 years young

Sincere Thanks

A great deal of information about olden times and events in this book have been supplied by some pretty wonderful senior citizens of Bancroft. Our sincere thanks go to: Mrs. Mary George, Mr. Scott Vader, Mrs. James Vance, Mrs. Gertrude Cameron, Miss B. A. Haase, Mrs. G. Richardson, Mrs. G. Robinson and to many more. The cooperation of The Bancroft Times staff and Mr. Ed. Strome is also greatly appreciated. And our thanks to all those who loaned us old photos and other material.

The Eagle's Nest

Bancroft has always been proud of the towering cliff located at its northern end. The Eagle's Nest has become a famous landmark—something which few other places can equal. There are very few citizens who have not climbed to the top to admire the wonderful view. And yet few of them have bothered to look for the two little lakes which are located just behind the edge and which are supposed to have special kind of fish. The name "Eagle's Nest" is well chosen as the first people living here could see a pair of Eagles whose nest was located on one of the pine trees near the brink of the cliff. Mr. William Gaebel was once deputized to obtain an Eagle's egg from the nest, a feat which he carried off successfully. The great birds have since departed but the name and the mountain still remain for more generations to see and admire.

'Superior' Propane

LTD.

Liquigas Service

The complete gas service beyond the mains.

For Home, Restaurant, Farm and Industry.

Industrial Heat Treating Specialists

R.R. 3, Bancroft Phone 535

SINCE 1917

First in the garage business in Bancroft. Sold automobiles to three generations. Now selling outboard motors and boats to the fourth generation. Come in and see me and lets talk over old times

Peterborough Boats — Canoes
— Evinrude Motors —

R. J. Stringer (Bob)
Phone 22

Welcome to Bancroft Old Home Week!

No visit to Bancroft is complete without a call at

White Pine Motor Hotel

Beautifully situated on lovely Paudash Lake twelve miles south of Bancroft on Highway 28.

Luxuriously furnished, pine-panelled motor units - broadloom wall to wall, 4 piece private bath, individual refrigeration, TV and telephone in each unit.

A wonderful place to spend a holiday or call in and enjoy delicious meals graciously served in the old-time setting of our lovely colonial dining room overlooking the surrounding hills and beautiful Paudash Lake.

Enjoy your favorite beverage with your meal or in the evening in our Gay Nineties room.

Sandy Beach - Boating - Fishing - Dancing
Organized Entertainments.

The Bancroft Fire Brigade

The pressing need for a good fire brigade was felt even before Bancroft became an incorporated village. Faraday township council voted to raise \$2,500.00 in April of 1901 for erection of a fire hall and the purchase of a steam engine. Two police trustees were appointed to look into suitable sites for the headquarters. They were John Kelusky and John Jackson. The fire hall was built behind Easton's present store and the deed to the land was given by Mr. Robinson to Faraday township on May 28th, 1903. Ownership of the land, buildings and equipment was transferred to Bancroft when it was incorporated in December of 1904.

The town council appointed Edwin Whitefoot to be caretaker of the hall, keep it clean, snow shovelled and fires on at 10c per day. A fire brigade was organized in 1905. The chief was Michael Rouse and the members were John Payne, Charles Mullett Frank Towle, Lorne Reid, Bob Fair, John Jackson, Frank Mullett and Frank Thompson. Other fire chiefs have been John Payne, Charles Mullett, Peter Kellar, M. J. McAlpine, Sr., Roy Robinson and Cecil McAlpine.

The old fire bell was located on Detlor's store near the fire hall. It was replaced with a loud siren in 1930.

The equipment has improved since the brigade was formed. A trailer pump was purchased in 1920 and in 1949 a new Bickle-Seagrave pumper was obtained. And in 1951 a GMC hose truck was bought and finally in 1958 a pumper truck obtained from the Maynooth Lions Club, who had purchased it from the town of Lindsay.

There have been some spectacular fires in town and great property damage but the hard working fire brigade have always done their best to contain the flames. All the buildings on Bridge Street west form the corners have burned twice. The Old Queen's Hotel made a flaming exit one cold winter's night. The Yellow Block down town was also levelled twice. One of the most spectacular fires happened when Mullett's hardware store burned in 1928. The noise of exploding ammunition, Stumping powder and the danger of the flames, kept the fire fighters well back. They worked hard to keep the flames from jumping the street to the Hotel and Reid & Thompson's store. The heroic work of Rev. D. J. Campbell, John Carlise and Mike McAlpine kept the damage down. As it was, Tom French's store, John Payne's shop and Mullett's store were razed.

The Woollen Mills have burned three times, and the grist and roller mills twice. The Public School went up in flames in 1931. The old Community Hall went in the early 1920's and only the daring of Bill Broad kept the United Church from burning as well.

For many years, the lack of quick action in getting to the fires and the difficulty experienced in getting water on the flames, has given fires a chance to get going. It used to be necessary to string long lines of hoses from the river to the fire. In winter, a hole had to be chopped into the ice to get water to the pumper. The men worked hard under difficult conditions as lack of proper equipment and clothing made things very bad. Now we have an efficient volunteer organization, with modern fire fighting devices and fast working know-how of fire fighting. Fire Chief Cecil McAlpine can be well proud of his brigade to day.

The rush and noise of modern times, as we go pell-mell around the tread-mill of today's laughable excuse for living, will never quite erase the memories of a spring Sunday evening in Bancroft of long ago. As the robin begins his vespersong, the first hush of evening descends gently over the hills. Other birds take up the chant, and the people softly walk along the streets towards the church of their choice. There are few cars, and those which do chuff along Hastings Street, seem to fall into the same mood as the foot travellers. Suddenly at 7.00 p.m. the strident bells of the grand old United Church break forth. The Anglican bells take up the chorus from their place amid the pines and over to the west, the distinctive tones of the Catholic Mission bells continue the call to Worship. For a few moments, the air is filled with the sound of the gladsome ringing, and then all is still once more. Suddenly, there is the sound of singing, and organs, as the birds fall silent and human voices start to humbly praise God for all His Blessings. It is a memory of utter peace and tranquility. Oh! that those quiet times could come again!

Contributed by a former Bancroftonian.

Letter to the Editor, Bancroft Times
February 26th, 1925

"I sat beside a very talkative, but very intelligent and well-informed lady at the charity ball held in the community hall last Friday night. How things change! It is just about seven years since I have been in Bancroft. At that time there was a revival meeting going and everyone seemed to be swayed. Although I was only 11 years old at the time, I distinctly remembered the faces of some of the ladies who took part in that movement and I asked my lady friend if it were possible that I recognized at this public ball some of those same faces. She smiled and said it might just be possible. I saw that the subject was distasteful to her, so I decided to look over some of the most striking figures who were present.

Just then a buzz of excitement swept the hall and a tall dark man with piercing eyes, restless and roving, entered. I took him at once to be a notable and was informed by my companion that he was no less a person than the Warden of Hastings and as soon as I laid eyes on him I felt that the nation and the county would be safe with such a man at its head. Indeed a little later an unpleasant occurrence took place when a rumour swept the audience that this very assembly was being held under the auspices of the Charlie Hanna Booster Club. The warden immediately made enquiry and it was only after he had received assurance from the M.C. and the leading lady that such was not the case, that he consented to lend his patronage to the affair. I saw a little man with spectacles which gave him the air of peering benevolence. I immediately took a liking to him and my companion informed me that he was the coming man of Bancroft and was picked out by the citizens as their coming reeve. I asked who the present reeve was and she informed me that he was once a frisky young colt but was now a broken down old hoss.

Well, to return to the dance. I was surprised to see that they danced so many square dances. It was a genuine Old Hoe-Down. Personally, I like the modern round dances, but the spirit which the people of Bancroft put into the old fashioned shin-digs left no doubt as to where their preference lies, and I have no intention to question it. Just a word about the Master of Ceremonies. He was here, there and everywhere - the cynosure of all eyes, consulting with the ladies as to their well being and comfort. He was ideal - the right man in the right place.

Altogether, I think Bancroft is a most interesting place. Its people are the most interesting studies I have ever come across. But then it is a well known fact that people go to extremes. It is religious revivals followed by dancing and card parties - sobriety and prohibition followed by over indulgence in drink - but in spite of it all, I like the people of Bancroft very much, although I do feel a little peeved at the Bank Manager because he didn't ask me for a dance.

Signed "Phyllis Rose" S.S. No. 18

FEBRUARY 16, 1905

About six years ago, a buxom lady, fair, fat and not quite forty, came to this part of the country to teach the only true gospel to the heathens. She took up her abode on the Monk Road and it wasn't very long until she became infatuated with a young man named Woodcock, about fifteen years her junior. They got married. That was just about 5 years and 2 months ago, and they have apparently been living happily together ever since and they have a baby four years of age. At the time of her marriage to Woodcock the lady admitted that she had been married before to a man named Jones with whom she had lived five years but as he was a worthless character, she had left him. An item she saw in the paper sometime after led her to believe he was dead, but two weeks ago she was very much surprised to receive a letter from a friend informing her that husband number one was still in the land of the living. It was a rude shock and after careful study of the scriptures, she made up her mind that there would have to be a dissolution of her present partnership with herself and Woodcock. The partnership was dissolved by mutual consent and the household effects were divided up, and with her child, Mrs. Jones - Woodcock sought another home. She is still living in Bancroft and it is quite likely that in the event Mr. Jones is really dead in the near future there will be a happy reunion.

Bancroft Old Home Week Program

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

Special morning church services,
Plan to attend the church of your choice.
2.00 P.M. - Memorial service and placing of wreath on the cenotaph at the Legion Hall.
3.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. Band Concert, garden party and official opening of Old Home Week, by prominent speakers, at the Bancroft Public School.
Registration all day.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH

All day registration
9.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. - Pancake breakfast served by the Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.
10.00 A.M. to Noon - Back to Public School for all former pupils and teachers. NOTE - bring your own lunch and dress the same as you did when you formerly attended school.
12.00 Noon to 8.00 P.M. - Plank Steak Dinner, served by the St. John's Anglican Men's Group. Steaks served beside the York River, just behind the I.G.A. store.
1.30 P.M. - Monster Street Parade
3.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. - Hard and Soft Ball Games at Faraday Heights diamond.
12.00 Noon to Midnight - Midway open.
4.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M. - Arena open for the Department of Lands and Forests Wild Life Exhibit and local merchants' display.
9.00 P.M. to 1.30 A.M. - Street Dance and carnival attractions.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH

All day registration.
9.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. - Pancake breakfast served by the Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.
9.00 A.M. to Midnight - Midway open.
2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. - Soap box derby.
2.00 P.M. to 4.30 P.M. - Tour of Faraday Uranium Mines.
4.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M. - Arena open for the Department of Lands and Forests Wild Life Display and local merchants' exhibit.
5.00 P.M. to 7.00 P.M. - Cold plate supper served by the members of the Legion Auxiliary. Supper to be served in the Legion Hall.
8.00 P.M. to 9.00 P.M. - Step dancing and old time fiddlers' contest.
9.30 P.M. to 1.30 A.M. - Street dance and carnival attractions.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

All day registration
9.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. - Pancake breakfast served by the Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star.
9.00 A.M. to Midnight - Midway open.
10.00 A.M. to Noon - Swimming and diving events at the local swimming pool.
2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. - Log sawing and wood chopping contests.
3.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M. - Little League Baseball, Faraday Heights diamond.
4.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M. - Parade and display of old time cars.
5.00 P.M. to 7.00 P.M. - Hot supper, served by the Ladies of St. Paul's United Church. Supper to be served at the Legion Hall.
7.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M. - Tug-of-war — Grudge between the Kinsmen and Lions Clubs. Event to take place at the swimming pool and the tug-of-war will be, to pull one or the other across the York River.
9.00 P.M. to 12.00 P.M. - Street Dance and carnival attractions.
12.00 Midnight to 1.30 A.M. - Shirt tail parade and gala display of fireworks.

Memorandum



Anyone offering to share a medicine with a friend does so, of course with the kindest of intentions. But this practice is risky . . . and the only sensible thing to do is to steer clear of all such offers.

Sometimes you might be tempted to "borrow" medicine. Your friend's symptoms were just like yours and you've been given . . . or at least think you've been given . . . the same prescription. So why let that leftover medicine go to waste?

But, as your doctor will tell you, similar symptoms don't always indicate the same trouble. Joint pains aren't necessarily signs of arthritis, and chest pains don't always mean heart trouble.

Even if two people happen to have the same illness necessitating the use of the same drug, it still would be hazardous to use another's prescription. For drugs come in many strengths and many forms . . . and the prescription that is right for someone else may be wrong for you. Then, too, some drugs lose their effectiveness within a few weeks or months after the original prescription is filled.

So don't let well-meaning friends keep you from getting the full benefit of your doctor's counsel and the medicines he prescribes. Seeking professional medical advice—and then following it—may well turn out to be one of the really big bargains of your life.

Don Shaw Pharmacy

HASTINGS ST., BANCROFT

PHONE 313

HASTINGS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bancroft and District

Old Home Week

August 6, 7, 8, 9

1961

Bancroft - Now



HISTORICAL SOUVENIR